Hafa Adai!

Saipan Humane Society gets boost from Banfield Foundation. PAGE 2

How one NMC grad turned her dream into reality. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

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Senate, House pass budget bill

» Budget legislation now on governor's desk

» DeLeon Guerrero: It's quite unfortunate gov't employees to bear brunt of reduction of hours

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As expected, the Senate and House of Representatives passed during emergency sessions yesterday a bill that identified $163.4 million as the total budgetary resources and $114.2 million as the total local revenue and resources available for appropriation for the CNMI government's operations in fiscal year 2024.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Amelia Shai, the special assistant for Programs and Legislative Review, checks on the budget bill for fiscal year 2024 as she prepares to deliver copies of the legislation to Gov. Arnold I.Palacios and to the Office of the Attorney General yesterday afternoon.

The budget bill, or the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriation Act, is now on Gov. Arnold I.

See SENATE on Page 4

8 of 14 involved in scheme to enter Guam illegally released

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI presided over the change of plea hearings for eight of the 14 Chinese nationals who were caught attempting to illegally enter Guam via boat over a week ago and have granted their release pending sentencing.

Manglona

Last Friday, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona heard the change of plea agreements for Zhang Xiang Ke, Xu Lu, Weng Bin, Gao Xi Ping, Lin Yu

See GUAM on Page 4

Japanese tourists aren't compelled to visit Saipan

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
The Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors hold a meeting at their office along Beach Road.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Japanese market, currently the CNMI's only tourism market aside from Korea, is facing a few

See JAPANESE on Page 4

US will establish diplomatic ties with Cook Islands, Niue as Biden hosts Pacific leaders

AP

President Joe Biden speaks during the U.S.-Pacific Island Country Summit at the State Department in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022.

By AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Joe Biden is set to establish diplomatic relations Monday with two South Pacific nations, the Cook Islands and Niue, as his administration aims to show to Pacific Island leaders that it is committed to

See BIDEN on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

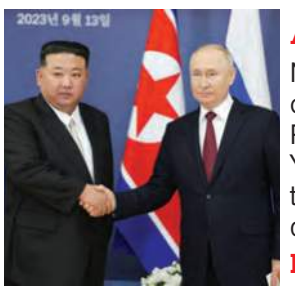
4

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Hyatt Regency Saipan is celebrating Chuseok, Korea's traditional answer to Thanksgiving.

PAGE 11



ASIA

North Korea on Monday called South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol "a guy with a trash-like brain" and "a diplomatic idiot."

PAGE 13

OVERDRIVE

Well, this isn't an MX-5 Miata, although the all-new 2024 Mazda CX-90 looms large enough to seem as if it could carry one.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dahlia running in the water. This dog was adopted from the shelter here and tested positive for heartworm. She will be one of the dogs benefiting from the heartworm program supported by Banfield, with guidance from The Inner Pup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Daisy in the wheelchair built by volunteers here, which Banfield is sponsoring a new functional wheelchair to replace.

IN EFFORT TO COMBAT HEATWORM DISEASE

Saipan Humane Society gets boost from Banfield Foundation

Saipan Humane Society is thrilled to announce a significant milestone in its mission to provide vital animal care services to the Saipan community. Through a generous Community Care Grant from Banfield Foundation, Saipan Humane Society will take a significant step forward in comprehensive disease prevention and heartworm management.

With a specific focus on underserved and diverse communities, Saipan captured the attention of the Banfield Foundation, which recognized the pressing need for enhanced preventive care. The grant from Banfield Foundation will support Saipan Humane Society in its commitment to animal welfare by:

» **Grant will also enhance preventive care access**

■ **Simparica Trio Implementation:** Saipan Humane Society will introduce Simparica Trio, a cutting-edge 3-in-1 medication that effectively prevents fleas, ticks, heartworm disease, and intestinal worms. Unlike traditional treatments, Simparica Trio simplifies the process with a convenient monthly tablet that includes Sarolaner (similar to Bravecto), moxidectin (similar to ivermectin), and pyrantel for intestinal deworming.

■ **Heartworm Testing and Treatment Programs:** Addressing a pressing issue on Saipan, the grant will enable Saipan Humane Society to develop heartworm testing and treatment programs. Alarmingly, more than 12% of the 500 dogs tested in Saipan this year were found to have heartworm disease, compared to just 1.3% of dogs in the USA in 2012. Left untreated, heartworm disease can lead to irreversible damage to the heart, lungs, and arteries.

Banfield Foundation has also facilitated a collaboration between Saipan Humane Society and The Inner Pup, a New Orleans-based non-profit organization specializing in heartworm prevention and treatment. Through The Inner Pup's "Heartworm Zero" affiliate program, Saipan Humane Society has established an affordable heartworm treatment protocol and forged vital connections to expand access to this typically costly treatment.

Finally, in a heartwarming gesture, Banfield Foundation is sponsoring the cost of a wheelchair for Daisy, the beloved half-paralyzed dog who has become the Saipan Humane Society's mascot. Daisy's uplifting presence at the SHS clinic and in the community outreach programs has touched many hearts, including the Banfield Foundation team. This sponsorship will give Daisy the wheels she needs to live her best life and continue bringing joy to those she meets.

Saipan Humane Society extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Banfield Foundation for its unwavering commitment to improving animal welfare and the well-being of the Saipan community. With this support, Saipan Humane Society is determined to make a lasting impact on the lives of animals and their families in the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

FROM JANITOR TO NURSE:

How one NMC grad turned her dream into reality

NMC

After graduating from Northern Marianas College's nuring program in 2023, Lesley Ann Rapiz became a nurse at Saipan Renal Care.

Northern Marianas College graduate Lesley Ann Rapiz's first task in an NMC classroom wasn't to learn, it was to clean.

When Rapiz first came to Saipan in 2016, she was to work as a cleaner for her family's cleaning company, Clean World Corp. It was her first job, and her assignment was the college.

As she continued cleaning NMC, she saw multiple NMC students become successful nurses. This in turn, inspired her to start her journey in the field of nursing in 2019.

"I believe that through nursing, there would be a lot of opportunities for me," Rapiz said. "Nursing also offers a unique opportunity for people like me to touch other people's lives by providing quality care and helping them achieve a healthy state of being."

However, her journey toward becoming a registered nurse wasn't always easy. Rapiz, while taking classes, continued to clean offices and classrooms at NMC. While during the week she would continue on with her janitorial duties, Rapiz would take classes on the weekends.

"It was okay at first, when I could take classes on Saturdays," Rapiz said. "But once I got into the nursing program, I had to attend class and clinicals during working hours, which was a bit hard."

According to Rapiz, she would come into work at 4am, leave to attend class, then go back into work right after. In order to make up for her lost hours, she would work until 6pm most days.

"It was not easy studying while working, but I made sure to use my time properly to be able to work it out," Rapiz said.

Rapiz is grateful for her coworkers, her supervisors, and her family for being understanding of her schedule.

"I am really grateful especially to my supervisors Barnaby Lizama and Greg Sablan, as well as Shirley Blas and Rachel Fusco from the facilities department for being understanding of my schedule and for always encouraging me in my studies," Rapiz said. "I'd also like to thank all of the employees and the nursing instructors of the college for always supporting me, and especially to Piding Sablan from the Bookstore, who bought me my regalia for my commencement ceremony."

NMC

Lesley Ann Rapiz, center, in cap and gown, with her family at the Northern Marianas College's commencement exercises held earlier this year.

Rapiz also credits her success to her coworkers at her family's company—especially her mother, Nora Bondad and her uncle Nomer Florendo.

"My mom wanted to always become a nurse and wasn't able to," Rapiz said. "So, when I got the chance, I decided to pursue nursing to honor her dreams."

She also thanks her husband, Deorene, for always being there for her. According to Rapiz, she and her husband would take additional work during their free time cleaning houses, in order to help pay for her tuition.

"I'd also really like to thank my husband for giving me the love and support I needed throughout my nursing journey," Rapiz said.

Now, after graduating from the college in 2023 and passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN soon after, Rapiz is a nurse at Saipan Renal Care.

"It's a great and fun experience at the clinic," Rapiz said.

For students also planning to become a nurse or to just finish college, Rapiz advises them to manage their time wisely.

"If you're going to take the NCLEX, take it as soon as you can right after graduating," Rapiz said. "And most importantly—believe in yourself." ***(PR)***

IPI opposes appointment of Clear Management as receiver

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has filed its response to Joshua Gray's request for receivership and has informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that it opposes the appointment of Clear Management Ltd.

IPI, through attorney Stephen Nutting and Michael Chen, filed its opposition to Gray's motion asking the District Court for the NMI to appoint Clear Management to serve as receiver tasked with liquidating IPI's personal property to satisfy the over $5-million judgment the court previously granted Gray.

IPI's lawyers stated that the casino investor opposes the appointment of Clear Management based upon the experience IPI had in a previous receivership.

"IPI opposes the appointment of Clear based upon the experience IPI worked with Clear in the past and potential claims over $9 million dollars in property damages caused by Clear while serving as the Receiver," said IPI.

IPI's lawyers explained that when Clear served as the receiver in the USA Fanter case, Clear may have been negligent in allowing its bidders and its agents to use heavy machinery to transport heavy items across the marble floor of IPI's casino, which resulted in significant property damages to IPI.

"IPI intends to seek remedies against Clear. Given the obvious and clear conflict between IPI and Clear, to avoid the appearance of impropriety so as to maintain confidence in the impartiality of the judiciary, it would be improper for Clear to be appointed as a receiver in the instant case," said IPI.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, IPI former employee Joshua Gray, through attorneys Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline, filed a petition for an order to show cause to appoint a limited receiver to sell IPI's personal property.

Specifically, Gray is petitioning the District Court for the NMI to issue an order compelling IPI to justify why Clear Management Ltd. should not be appointed as limited receiver to sell IPI's personal property which were seized through a writ of execution previously granted in his Gray's favor.

In addition, Gray wants the court to order IPI to comply with Clear Management in all respects, if the petition for receivership is granted, and to prohibit the casino investor from obstructing Clear Management so that maximum value may be obtained from the sale of its assets.

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CUC still in the recruitment phase for the executive director's position

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is still in the recruitment phase for the position of executive director which has been vacant since Feb. 21, 2023.

CUC acting executive director Betty G. Terlaje in an interview last Friday said as of that day, they don't have any new applicant that meets the qualifications of the executive director.

Terlaje

Terlaje said they've vetted all the applicants and their Human Resources Department is trying hard to reach out to the utilities industry.

She said the four-day 30th Pacific Power Association Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition is another opportunity for them where they can express the need to hire an executive director.

The PPA Conference kicked off yesterday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

Terlaje said hopefully they will get a recommendation at the conference for the executive director's position because they will be meeting people in the industry.

"So everyday we're hoping to open our emails or check our [mail] box to see that we have a new applicant and unfortunately that's not the case," she pointed out.

The acting executive director said they are getting some applicants, but unfortunately they are not meeting the requirements.

She said they communicate weekly with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which does the vetting of the applicants' package.

"They are aware that we're trying," Terlaje said.

She disclosed that EPA approved three applications.

Terlaje said they interviewed one of the three and the board gave the go signal to proceed with the process, but unfortunately that didn't work out.

She said the interview for the second did not push through as he declined for good reasons such as relocation costs and maybe salary.

Terlaje said they are waiting for the second to communicate back to them for the interview.

She said for the third one, he is still going through the process because he has not submitted complete requirements.

The executive director's position has been vacant since Feb. 21, 2023 when Gary P. Camacho resigned.

SENATE

From page 1

Palacios' desk for action after House clerk Linda B. Muna handed a copy of the legislation to Amelia Shai, the special assistant for Programs and Legislative Review, yesterday at 3:45pm in Muna's office.

Without a balanced budget enacted into law by Oct. 1, 2023, there will be a partial shutdown of the government's operations.

Nineteen House members voted "yes" and Rep. Thomas John DLC. Manglona (R-Saipan) abstained from voting to a motion to adopt the bicameral conference committee's report that recommends for the passage of the budget legislation—House Bill No. 23-66, House Substitute 1, Senate Substitute 2, Conference Committee Substitute 1.

All nine senators unanimously voted "yes" to adopt the bicameral conference committee's report.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) thanked the conferees and staff from both the House and the Senate "for their hard work."

Before the voting took place in the Senate, Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) extended her appreciation to the Senate and House conferees and also for their alternates as they sit in as well during the deliberations for the fiscal year 2024 budget product.

DeLeon Guerrero said a lot of the contentious issues were discussed that afternoon regarding the budget product.

"At the end of the day, it's quite unfortunate that the government employees have to face the cuts as a result of the lack of revenue," she said.

The Senate president said she is hopeful that moving forward that this collective Legislature start looking at putting in revenue generating legislation on a timely fashion and not at the last minute when fiscal year 2024 is already knocking on their doors.

DeLeon Guerrero underscored the need to look at economic initiatives as they hope to look to receive some of that plan of action from the administration.

She said there's a lot of conversation about pivoting for military tourism, but people have yet to see any revenue studies being done for this particular industry as they speak today.

"It has been happening here in our region. But we have not seen an official report of how much revenue has been generated from this particular tourism and how much collection of revenues has been generated as a result of the buildup, which is right next door. And also what is the spillover for Saipan and Rota as well," the president said.

She said there is a need to take a look and work hard in trying to identify how to improve the CNMI destination in conjunction working with the Marianas Visitors Authority and all other stakeholders to bring in more tourists so that the Commonwealth can become a much more competitive market.

"All of these things are the responsibility of the government. Collectively, again, it is our responsibility," DeLeon Guerrero pointed out.

She said it's just quite unfortunate that the working population or government employees have to bear the brunt of reduction of hours in order for the Legislature to fill the gap of certain programs that are lacking revenue in order for them to move forward.

She said the Group Health Life Insurance is a serious matter as it affects the people's lives.

She said she does hear that death benefits are on hold because premium payments from the employer sponsored responsibility is behind three or four payments.

"This is not the time for us to wait for the next fiscal year to come in and start thinking about what revenue shall we legislate and where does it begin, which we know where," DeLeon Guerrero said.

She said hopefully they don't see much veto on this particular product because it took a lot of time and effort to work on.

Before the voting in the House and Senate, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House conference committee, and Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the Senate conference committee, both discussed the history of the budget bill.

Yumul said there was a difference in the amount of $1.1 million on available for appropriation between the House and the Senate.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BIDEN

From page 1

increasing American presence in the region.

The announcement comes as Biden prepares to welcome leaders to Washington for a two-day U.S.-Pacific Island Forum Summit expected to focus heavily on the impact of climate change.

Biden has put a premium on improving ties in the Pacific amid rising U.S. concern about China's growing military and economic influence. Plans for the diplomatic move were confirmed by two senior administration officials who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity before the formal announcement.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden would use the summit to strengthen "ties with the Pacific Islands and discuss how we address complex global challenges, like tackling the existential threat of climate change, advancing economic growth, and promoting sustainable development."

Some of the leaders attended an NFL game in Baltimore on Sunday and later planned to visit a U.S. Coast Guard cutter in the city's harbor for a briefing on combating illegal fishing and other maritime issues.

Pacific Island leaders have been critical of rich countries for not doing enough to control climate change despite being responsible for much of the problem, and for profiting from loans provided to vulnerable nations to mitigate the effects.

At last year's summit, the White House unveiled its Pacific strategy, an outline of its plan to assist the region's leaders on pressing issues like climate change, maritime security and protecting the region from overfishing. The administration pledged the U.S. would add $810 million in new aid for Pacific Island nations over the next decade, including $130 million on efforts to stymie the impacts of climate change.

The forum includes Australia, the Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

GUAM

From page 1

Xing, Xu Zi You, Chen Qin, and Shang Guan Hui Ping.

The eight individuals all pleaded guilty to engaging in a conspiracy to transport, move, or attempt to transport or move an alien within the United States in reckless disregard of the fact that the alien entered and remained in the United States in violation of law.

After accepting their guilty pleas, Manglona ordered the individuals to pay an appearance bond pursuant to their plea agreement and were released to their own recognizance pending sentencing.

Aside from the eight who pleaded guilty, six currently await detention pending trial.

The six individuals are Wang Rui, Miao Fu Quan, Li Qin Jiang, Chen Qin Jun, Xu Dong Lin, and Din Hong Mei.

According to court documents, on Sept. 13, HSI agents conducted an enforcement operation with local and federal enforcement partners at Smiling Cove Marina on Saipan.

Prior to the operation, an HSI agent posed as a "boat captain" and entered into an agreement with one of the individuals involved in this case to transport a group to Guam in exchange for payment.

At approximately 3:56am on Sept. 13, HSI personnel and partners observed Xu's vehicle, followed by two other vehicles entering the Smiling Cove Marina area. Later, officers observed 14 individuals exiting from three vehicles.

The complaint stated that law officers observed 14 individuals putting on lifejackets near the vehicles. After, the vehicles departed the marina.

All 14 individuals boarded the boat that was leased by and under direct HSI control.

On the boat, the undercover agent conducted a roll call of each individual listed on the charter float plan previously provided by Xu.

The "boat captain" then requested for each individual to present proof of payment for the trip.

Each individual presented a bundle of what appeared to be currency when the undercover agent called their names.

All passengers affirmed that they did not want to be detected by law enforcement officials during the trip.

All passengers also affirmed that they were willing and ready to go to Guam and refused the undercover boat captain's offer to get off the vessel if they did not want to make the trip.

After this, HSI personnel and law enforcement partners apprehended the 14 individuals.

JAPANESE

From page 1

challenges that are expected to result in a significant drop in arrivals in the next few months.

Last week, Marianas Visitors Authority Japan representative Takashi Ichikura presented updates to the MVA board of directors about the conditions of the market as of late.

In his presentation, Ichikura shared some good news and some bad news, but the most concerning was that due to a number of reasons, Japanese tourists aren't compelled to travel to the Marianas right now.

"Due to slow overseas travel recovery, weak Japanese Yen, compounded with the unfavorable United Airlines flight schedule which customers must pay for three nights for actually a two-day stay in the Marianas, our tour package lost its appeal with its price. Customers cannot find a compelling reason to travel now, and there are currently no travel materials in the Marianas that makes them feel they need to travel now," Ichikura said.

In addition, *Saipan Tribune* learned that in the next few months, trip bookings from Japan to Saipan is expected to drop nearly 40% compared to the previous months.

In an interview with MVA managing director Chris Concepcion, he said he isn't surprised as bookings tend to drop this time of year.

"However, we are trying to reverse the trend by launching a new campaign which is essentially entails businesses in the CNMI and members of the MVA are giving incentives in the form of discounts and promotions to entice Japanese visitors to come to the CNMI in order to avail of these special discounts and programs," he said.

Concepcion also shared that MVA is working with its Japan partners on a raffle drawing that would provide essentially a free trip to Saipan for one lucky individual each month.

"The Hotel Association of the Marianas has stepped in to provide complimentary rooms that we are using as raffle prizes while United has stepped in to provide complimentary tickets to send an individual to Saipan each month. The lucky winner of this raffle draw will be able to come to the CNMI for free, all expenses covered and when they get here, they have all these other discounts on activities, shopping, restaurants, and more. Theres a lot of things going on," he said.

"The goal is to increase and boost the bookings with these campaigns," Concepcion added.

Apatang underscores importance of rebuilding Legacy Project

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang extolled the importance of regularly maintaining the historic iconic Municipality of Saipan complex east of the main U.S. postal facility during Sept. 14's groundbreaking ceremony at the Saipan municipal administration property where the longest-serving Saipan mayor Vicente D. "Kilili" Sablan together with past municipal councils provided municipal services in Chalan Kanoa.

In his speech, Apatang echoed the strides performed by the island's forefathers and mothers centuries past saying, "we cannot let our history fade away, (because)…letting that happen would be a grave mistake and a disrespect to our forefathers and mothers."

"Chalan Kanoa is rich with history of the early days of our growth following the war."

Apatang recalled "Chalan Kanoa (as) a place where residents living in the various villages met and shared family stories, caught up with current events. Civic activities were carried out in the historic place, like over at the Kiosku."

Apatang also underscored the responsibility of the present generation to "preserve the memory and history for our future generations," pointing to the surrounding properties where once stood the old post office, the island dental clinic, the municipal offices and other municipal government offices, which not far from the groundbreaking site were retail stores lined the clean streets in Chalan Kanoa.

"Proudly, as mayor, I conveyed (the) use of the mayor's (Chalan Kanoa) office property, the old equipment repair shop and plant nursery (there) for the development and construction of the (Saipan) municipal complex…to house the mayor's office, the municipal council officesdestroyed by Typhoon Soudelor, a (modern) conference hall, and a (new) museum to showcase all past mayors and council members."

Presently, the municipal mayor occupies a private building next the Oleai track and field and pays rent at an estimated cost of $100,000 annually, or approximately $500,000 in four years.

The new municipal legacy project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Internal Affairs, precinct II leadership infrastructure project, and third senatorial district project cost sharing match.

Former 14th municipal council chair L.J. Castro (who was the master of ceremony during Thursday's groundbreaking), in a May 23, 2018 official communication to mayor Apatang stated: "Do know that this has been a desire of the municipal council to restore the unity that existed witin the municipality of Saipan in the early 1960s, where the seat of local government in Chalan Kanoa consisted of the mayor, the municipal council, the municipal treasury, the local public health and dental care, and a local bank."

Castro continued, "(w)hat worked well for the chartered municipality of Saipan in the 1960s could very well yet again today when we are all united on a mission to making our island of Saipan and Gani responsive, progressive, and work in partnership within our villages and communities."

Castro pledged "to restore unity in the 3rd Senatorial District Municipality…(by)…establishing a Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Complex in Chalan Kanoa" in his June 15, 2018 official letter to then-DPL secretary Teregeyo.

For his part, Apatang echoed Castro's call for unity in the Saipan municipality to DPL: "(w)e joined together on an important project to build the future Municipal Complex Center in Chalan Kanoa, (which) when completed…will be the permanent home to the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, and will be appropriately sited in the heart of the old municipal location of Saipan."

Apatang concluded his June 25, 2018 letter to the DPL secretary whereby Apatang concurred that "(t)he joint project will be immensely beneficial to members of our community for our offices will be conveniently located in the center of Saipan and in one building."

Construction project contractor R3A who was present during last week's groundbreaking is responsible for the projected completion of the new facility complex next year. The project was designed by TRMA as reinforced concrete foundation having load bearing capacity of two additional floors above the first-floor structure. The TRMA design is intended to accommodate the mayor's panoply of administrative offices for community services requiring heavy equipment service, timely repairs of village potholes, timely response to requests for village tree cutting services, regular roadside litter clean-up, consistent village roadside lawn care and trimming, access to local postsecondary assistance services, comprehensive dog control services and dog care, regular village sanitation services throughout the villages in Saipan, including the pending municipal treasury authorized the mayor through a local ordinance and the proposed charter commission.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang shares some words during the groundbreaking ceremony for Saipan and the Northern Islands Municipal Council's new home in Chalan Kanoa.

The A&E also incorporates a public parking which features concrete safety curb, curb stop, pavement stripping, entry/exit sign, stop sign, and ADA signs. The parking facility is also connected with sidewalks to and from the ground floor main entrance to the building.

The parking is also secured with parking steel light poles and solar-operated flood lights equipped also with interior and exterior CCTVs.

The construction contract also adds a landscaping component on the entire municipal facility using local trees such as cassia glauca, tournefortia Argentea, and Singapore plumeria.

Palms will add a tropical flavour to the landscaping with cocos nucifera, and ptychosperna machartiurii.

The landscaping will feature shrubs including allamanda cathartica, bougainvilla spect, gardenia jasminoides, alpinia purpurta, heliconia humilis, and hibiscus rosa sinesis.

As ground covers, cynodon dactylon and ophiopogon japonicum will feature prominently in the landscaping.

When completed next year, the Chalan Kanoa municipal facility will accommodate precinct two representatives in performing public services to their constituents at the centralized Chalan Kanoa satellite office. The networking is a partnership by municipal leaders in the Saipan council with the two precinct two legislative officials along with the mayor's office all within walking distance to the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosku Courtyard, the United States Postal Services, and the residents residing in the Saipan capital village of Chalan Kanoa. ***(PR)***

ALTER CITY GROUP, INC.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Alter City Group, Inc. (the **"Company"**), a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands corporation, has dissolved.

All creditors or other claimants against the Company are required to present their respective claims and demands in writing to the Company so that it can proceed to collect its assets, convey and dispose of its properties, satisfy and discharge its liabilities and obligations and do all other acts required to wind up its business affairs.

A person filing a claim must state description and basis of the claim, the relevant dates and the amount of the claim. A claim against the Company will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of this notice.

Claims must be presented to the Company addressed to: c/o Robert T. Torres, counsel for the Company at P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivery to his office in Chalan Kiya, Saipan.

/s/
KIN IAN LEONG
Authorized Representative

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on August 03, 2023, **Eusebio C. Borja & Margarita C. Borja, parents of Rose B. Fields, a NMHC Housing Specialist, and Michael W. Fields, a CDBG-DR Infrastructure Construction Specialist**, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of individuals who meet the national objective of urgent need and are intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and are applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. & Mrs. Fields are not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.:(670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net on or before **Friday, September 29, 2023.**

Dated this 12th day of September, 2023.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-23-2304

Marianas Visitors Authority Representation, Promotional and Public Relations Services for the JAPAN MARKET

Submission /Closing Date:	**November 09, 2023**
Time:	3:00 PM ChST
Submit sealed proposals to	Marianas Visitors Authority Attn: Procurement Office 3366 Beach Road Gold Beach Hotel Building I Liyang, Saipan P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after September 11, 2023 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, 3366 Beach Road, Gold Beach Hotel Building, I Liyang, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **"MVA-RFP-23-2304 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION, PROMOTIONAL, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES FOR THE JAPAN MARKET".**

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier mail service on or before November 09, 2023, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Acting Procurement Officer George Sablan in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to gsablan@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00 PM., Chamorro Standard Time on October 20, 2023.

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson,
MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director, MVA

NMC students elect new student gov't officers

Northern Marianas College students recently elected new officers to the college's student government body, the Associated Students of NMC or ASNMC. The new officers are Bonnie Gio Sagana, president; Mary-Jo Camacho, vice president; Jinkim Abogado, secretary; Rownel "Jody" Coloma, treasurer; and Claire Barozzo, Henry San Nicolas and Ariel Villagomez, senators.

"I am so grateful and humbly honored to have been chosen as the ASNMC President and I want to continue being a platform for students to address their concerns in order to promote success during college life," Sagana said.

Double majoring in both Nursing and Liberal Arts with an Emphasis in Social Work, Sagana is also involved with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as this year's recording secretary, and had also served in ASNMC last term as a senator. Additionally, he is a member of the Rotaract Club of Saipan.

"I had so much support from my previous officers and advisors who have taught me so much, and I am so grateful for all of the individuals who put their trust in me to represent them as their own President for the year 2023-2024," Sagana said.

Camacho, ASNMC's newly elected vice president, is currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Business Management and is president of the NMC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the vice president of the NMC Humanities Club.

"I feel truly honored to have been elected as this academic year's ASNMC vice president," Camacho said. "Words cannot express how grateful I am for everyone who has supported my campaign, voted for me, and placed their trust in me to be their voice at the table.

Majoring in Business Administration with an Emphasis in Accounting, Abogado is to serve this term as ASNMC's secretary: She currently works at Project Proa as a mentor and has recently joined the NMC Environmental and Natural Resources Organization (ENRO).

NMC

From left, Associated Students of NMC senators Henry San Nicolas, Claire Barozzo, and Ariel Villagomez, ASNMC secretary Jinkim Abogado, ASNMC president Bonnie Gio Sagana, ASNMC vice president Mary-Jo Camacho, and ASNMC treasurer Rownel "Jody" Coloma.

"I am grateful and super excited to have been elected into the Secretary position," Abagado said. "I look forward to being a voice for all students at NMC and I aim to create a successful year for everyone. I hope to bring all Proas together by participating in events and to create friendships with one another."

Serving as the newly-elected ASNMC treasurer, Coloma is a double major student pursuing an Associates of Applied Science in Business Administration: Business Management and Accounting Emphasis.

He is additionally involved in the Environmental and Natural Resources Organization (ENRO) club, Project PROA, and 4-H Marianas with the Cooperative Research Extension Education Service's Family, Community, and Youth Development Program.

"I am excited to have been elected as the ASNMC treasurer for this academic year," Coloma said. "I would like to use my position as a platform that reflects student's voices and builds meaningful relationships with one another."

Newly elected this term as one of the ASNMC senators, Barrozo is currently working toward her Associate's degree in Criminal Justice.

In her decision to run for the college's student government body, Barrozo plans to work with her peers to listen to the voices of students, provide them opportunities to interact, and encourage learning.

"I wanted to take a new journey and continue my passion of hosting events and creating a safe environment that will have a positive impact on individual's lives," she stated.

San Nicolas, who was newly elected as an ASNMC senator, is currently majoring in Liberal Arts with an Emphasis in Pre-Engineering. He is also a member of the U.S. Youth Advisory Council for the UN Ocean Decade (YAC UNOD) as part of the Movement Committee.

"I am just beyond thankful and humbled to be given this opportunity to serve as one of your ASNMC Senators," he expressed.

Villagomez, majoring in Elementary Education with an emphasis on Rehabilitation and Human Services, was recently elected as this term's ASNMC senator. In the past, he was the vice president of the School of Education (SOE) Club and is currently a member of the SOE Club.

It is through SOE and other organizations that Villagomez was not only able to help the community, but also showcase the value that NMC as a whole has for its community. He hopes to do the same with his position in ASNMC by empowering students to sail to their full potential.

"Being elected as a senator brought me a great sense of pride, because I've always wanted to be part of something bigger than myself," Villagomez said.

ASNMC is a student-driven governance body at the college. Its executive cabinet is composed of students who are elected at large by the student body and serve a one-year term in office.

This year's student government elections took place on Sept. 11 through 13, 2023.

For more information about ASNMC, visit marianas.edu or email asnmc@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

5.0-magnitude earthquake near Asan-Maina, Guam

At 7:48pm on Sept. 21, 2023, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred in 35 kilometers north-northwest of Asan-Maina Village Guam. Currently, no Tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.8-magnitude earthquake near Merrizo, Guam

At 7:10 AM on September 20, 2023, a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred near Merizo Village, Guam. Currently, there are no reports of injuries or damages and no Tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

Mawar debris cleanup completed in 9 villages

GUAM—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Typhoon Mawar debris mission continues to move forward as debris cleanup from residential rights of way was completed in the villages of Tamuning, Talo'fo'fo and Inalahan this week. The debris mission continues in nine villages, with one village to be scheduled.

The mission conducts separation and removal of eligible typhoon-related debris from residential properties.

Teams go street by street through each village collecting everything from construction and demolition waste to vegetative debris from rights of ways, until the entire village has been cleared.

Debris operations are currently ongoing in the following villages:

- Agat (Hågat)
- Agana Heights
- Barrigada
- Chalan Pago-Ordot
- Dededo
- Mangilao
- Mongmong-Toto-Maite
- Yigo
- Yona

Debris operations are projected to begin soon in the following villages:

- Agana (Hagåtña)

Once USACE contractors have made their rounds through a village, the village mayor is contacted and tours the village to inspect the debris pick-up. After a successful inspection, the mayor signs a memorandum declaring the village complete.

Debris operations have been completed in the following villages:

- Piti
- Asan (Asan-Maina)
- Sinajana
- Santa Rita (Sånta Rita-Sumai)
- Umatac (Humåtak)
- Merizo (Malesso')
- Tamuning
- Talofofo (Talo'fo'fo)
- Inarajan (Inalåhan)

Now that mayors have signed off on debris removal in these nine villages, USACE asks that any remaining debris including ineligible and hazardous waste be disposed of properly and not be set in the right of ways.

Areas that have been cleared continue to see debris being dumped by residents. Any new debris remaining after an area has been completed will be the resident's responsibility to dispose of.

Certain forms of ineligible debris may be taken to one of the three Guam Solid Waste Authority (GSWA) residential transfer stations in Harmon, Hagåt and Malojloj. Transfer station operation hours are Thursday through Monday from 9am to 5pm. A nominal fee is required for disposal of household trash.

Residents are urged to dispose of their solid waste properly. Illegal dumping is a violation of Guam law. In accordance with 10 GCA §51115(b), illegal dumping is subject to fines of up to $1,000 per day, per violation, along with the clean-up cost associated with the violation. To report illegal dumping and other suspected environmental violations, residents may contact the Guam Environmental Protection Agency via email at report@epa.guam.gov or by phone at 671-300-4751/2. Residents may also file a violation report online by visiting https://forms.gle/Bg99uw6yJUsiFkky9, or www.epa.guam.gov.

To view the Debris Mission Dashboard detailing current debris mission operations visit Guam Debris Mission DR4715-Dashboard (PUBLIC) (arcgis.com)

For an FAQ answering common questions about the debris mission visit:

- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Debris Mission FAQ | FEMA.gov

For more information on proper debris separation visit Debris Removal Guidelines for Residential Property (fema.gov) visit the following links for the latest information:

- Governor's Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/govlouguam
- GHS/OCD Website: https://ghs.guam.gov/
- GHS/OCD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/

For more information, contact the Joint Information Center at (671) 478-0208. ***(PR)***

UOG, UH Sea Grant partner to expand Green Growth Initiative

The University of Guam recently announced the expansion of the Green Growth Initiative across the Western Pacific.

A $1.4-million grant from the U.S. Department of State via the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program will strengthen the partnership between the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant and the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program.

UOG made the announcement on Sept. 12, during the National Sea Grant Association meeting at the Hyatt Regency Guam. This marked the first time that Guam hosted the biannual meeting, bringing together over 70 directors and representatives from nearly all the 34 Sea Grant programs nationwide.

The new grant will support efforts to expand the scope of Local2030 Islands Network and UOG's Guam Green Growth Initiative to the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

During the press conference, Austin Shelton, director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant, emphasized the potential impact of this collaboration, stating, "This seed funding will enable our island neighbors to hire their own Green Growth coordinators. We aspire to collectively strengthen our capacity across Micronesia and the Pacific to advance sustainable development."

"Our island neighbors are at the forefront of sustainability, and this partnership offers an exciting opportunity to expand capacity and knowledge exchange throughout the Pacific," Shelton added.

Randall V. Wiegand, vice president of Administration and Finance/chief business officer at UOG, acknowledged the transformative potential of the collaboration. "This partnership expands the ways we, as a region, can support each other in advancing the green economy and addressing climate change," he said.

Dr. Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, president of the Northern Marianas College and one of the program partners, said partnerships like these "are essential to our collective efforts to improve the world."

"Our aspirations are as expansive as the Pacific our ancestors traversed, and as profound as the Marianas Trench," Deleon Guerrero added.

UOG

Austin Shelton, director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant, says the $1.4-million grant from the U.S. State Department and the National Sea Grant College Program will enable UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant and University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program to build capacity in the region.

UOG

Representatives from the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant, University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program, and the National Sea Grant College Program gather for a photo after a press conference announcing a $1.4 million grant from the U.S. State Department and the National Sea Grant College Program on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Guam. From left, Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero; UOG vice president of Administration Randall V. Wiegand; Darren Lerner, director of the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program; Jonathan Pennock, director of the National Sea Grant College Program; Austin Shelton, director of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant; Fran Castro, associate director of UOG Sea Grant; and Kyle Mandapat, associate director for Communications and Engagement of UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant.

Darren Lerner, president of the Sea Grant Association and Director of the UH Sea Grant College Program, commended the long-standing partnership between the two universities. He praised UOG for its commitment to excellence, emphasizing the strength derived from the dedication of every program to this shared goal.

UOG

Jonathan Pennock, PhD, director of the National Sea Grant College Program, commends the University of Guam Sea Grant Program for its growth since achieving institutional status in 2022.

Jonathan Pennock, director of the National Sea Grant College Program, also recognized the impressive growth of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant program in a relatively short period of time. He emphasized its strong connection to the community and praised the program for effectively carrying forward the mission of Sea Grant.

In 2022, UOG achieved Sea Grant Institutional Status following a unanimous recommendation from the National Sea Grant Advisory Board and official designation from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) senior leadership.

The National Sea Grant College Program is a collaborative effort between universities and NOAA. It is dedicated to enhancing the practical utilization and conservation of coastal and marine resources, with a vision of fostering a sustainable economy and environment. The Sea Grant network comprises more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, public outreach experts, educators, and students. ***(PR)***

Amata welcomes US-Bahrain security agreement

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata of American Samoa has welcomed the recent security agreeement signed between the U.S. and the Kingdom of Bahrain called the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement or C-SIPA.

On Sept. 13, 2023, Bahrain Prime Minister Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, on behalf of the King of Bahrain, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the text of the joint agreement at the State Department last week.

C-SIPA is expected to enhance economic, cybersecurity, and trade collaboration between the U.S. and Bahrain and to strengthen the important regional alliance in the Arabian Gulf.

Blinken stated that, "At the heart of the agreement is a shared goal: working together to build a region that is more secure, that's more prosperous, and that's more connected to the world economy."

Amata hailed the signing of the C-SIPA between the U.S. and Bahrain.

"As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Chair of the Natural Resources Committee's Indo-Pacific Task Force charged with review and renewal of the Compacts of Free Association, I couldn't agree more with Secretary Blinken. I have been privileged to twice visit the Kingdom of Bahrain and visit with our troops there in the Navy's 5th Fleet, where many of my Samoan constituents have served proudly and been welcomed warmly by the Bahraini people. Whether it's the Middle East or the Indo-Pacific we need strong partners and leaders in those regions and we certainly have it with our friends in the Kingdom of Bahrain," she said.

"This is not a partisan issue for the United States as our continued and growing U.S.-Bahraini friendship is bi-partisan and President Biden is successfully building on the foundation President Trump laid during his Administration with the signing of the historic Abraham Accords. It is only fitting the next building block in our joint alignment come on this important anniversary when his Majesty King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opened an era of friendship and cooperation in pursuit of a Middle East region that is stable, secure and prosperous for the benefit of all peoples in the region no matter what party is in the White House. I commend all principles for these past and continued successes for our mutual peace and security," she added. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo of American Samoa Delegate Uifa'atali Amata in Bahrain with bipartisan congressional delegation and members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Scuttling Senate dress code diminishes decorum when our politics needs it most

Congress is bickering as usual. A potential federal shutdown is looming. Public respect for the elected representatives of government is at historic lows.

What a perfect time to announce that members of the world's greatest deliberative body are welcome to start coming to the U.S. Capitol looking like slobs.

That sarcasm is perhaps unbecoming for a newspaper editorial—but unbecoming seems to be the order of the day, now that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has officially ditched the Senate dress code for members while on the chamber floor.

It's true that post-pandemic fashion norms are, to put it mildly, relaxed. We won't claim for a second that, say, members of this editorial board are reliably clad in business attire, even when some of us are in the office. To say nothing of Zoom meetings, in which no one knows (nor needs to know) who is wearing slacks, jeans or gym shorts.

But we're not representing American democracy to the nation and the world from the televised floor of the United States Senate.

Schumer announced in a statement Monday that he is ditching the Senate's unofficial but long-observed rule requiring business attire for both male and female senators in the chamber. "There has been an informal dress code that was enforced," said the statement, but going forward, "Senators are able to choose what they wear on the Senate floor. I will continue to wear a suit."

Notably, the relaxed new standards don't apply to the staff who attend the senators. They still have to dress in business attire. Thus has Schumer achieved a curious outcome: He has cheapened the stately decorum of his chamber, while simultaneously confirming the public's view of Congress as being intolerably elitist — the unmistakable message when the elected class exempts itself from the rules it imposes upon others.

The announcement didn't explain Schumer's rationale, but it seems to have been in response to some members pushing the boundaries of the dress code lately with gym shoes and other provocations.

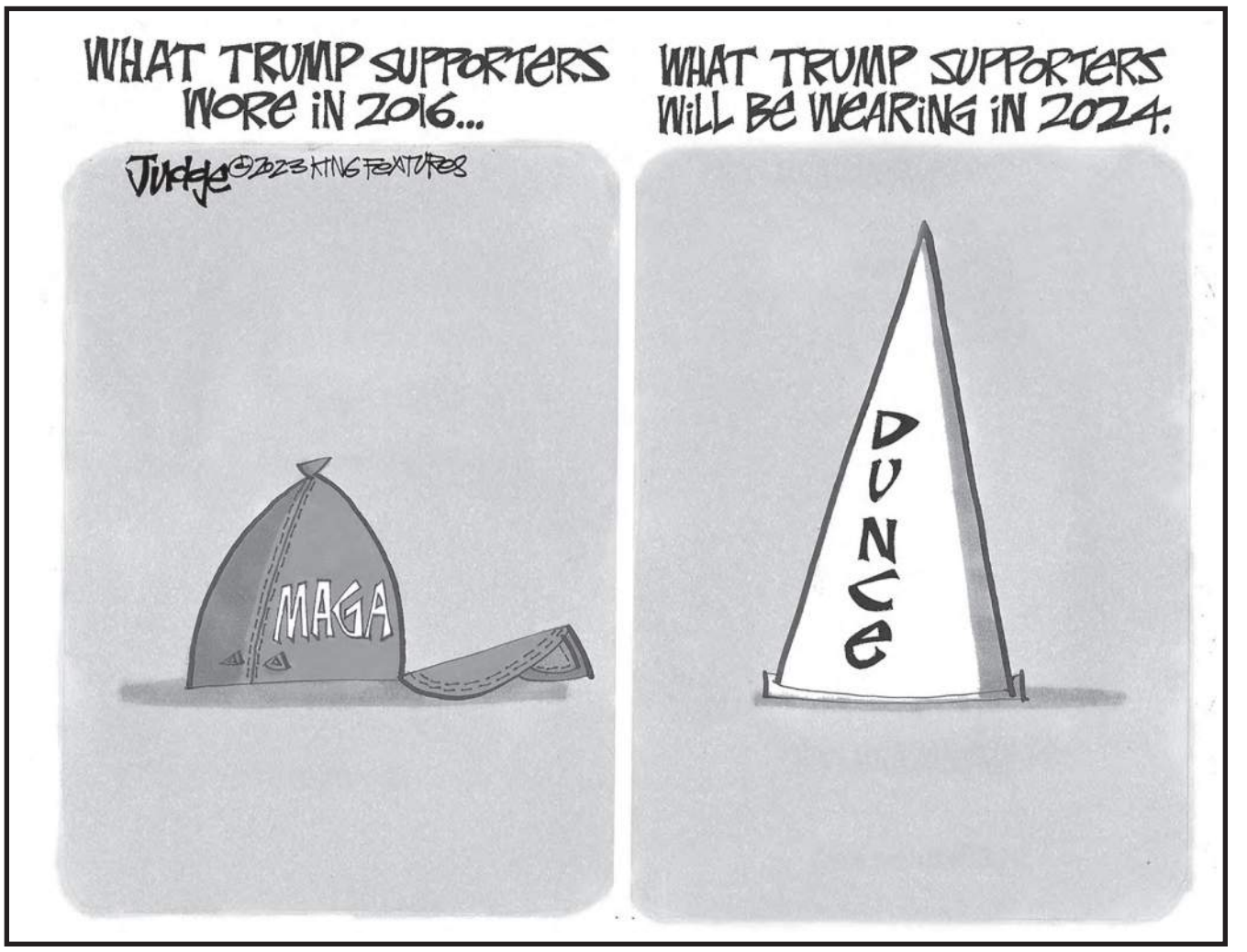
None has been more provocative than Sen. John Fetterman. The Pennsylvania Democrat reportedly has taken to standing in the cloakroom doorway to cast his votes, lest his trademark hoodie-and-gym-shorts getup cause a ruckus on the Senate floor.

All due respect to Fetterman's performative populism, but there are reasons why shorts and T-shirts are appropriate at softball games and barbecues but not at weddings or funerals. Or in the Senate.

Formal dress conveys respect for important occasions and settings. It puts that imperative—respect—above the imperatives of comfort and practicality that are perfectly acceptable in more casual endeavors.

Formal dress telegraphs dignity, which America's battered politics needs more than ever these days. With images currently bouncing around showing Colorado Republican Rep. Lauren Boebert at a recent theater performance arguing, vaping, groping and generally making more of a spectacle of herself than

See SCUTTLING on Page 9



Work-family balance should be a top-tier policy area

By DAVE ANDERSON
The Fulcrum

Dave Anderson edited "Leveraging: A Political, Economic and Societal Framework" (Springer, 2014), has taught at five universities and ran for the Democratic nomination for a Maryland congressional seat in 2016.

The work-family balance topic is one of the dominant issues in American society, but you would not know this based upon the amount of attention it gets compared with immigration, guns, abortion, national defense, Social Security and Medicare, transportation, climate change and taxes.

This is yet another sign of our dysfunctional democracy. Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans have elevated work-family balance to the pedestal where it belongs, although the Democrats have certainly done more to get it there.

The topic is actually a set of interrelated issues, notably paid parental leave, child-care, women's rights and economic opportunities, preschool policies, LGBTQ benefit rights, a tax credit for a stay-at-home parent, and intergenerational relations between grandparents, their grandchildren and their grandchildren's parents.

Indeed, the work-family balance topic concerns nothing less than 18 years of the life of parents, their children and their children's grandparents, especially regarding how the parents, the federal government, state governments, and the business, nonprofit or education employers provide funding for parents to take care of their children when they are not in school.

The work-family balance topic also concerns alcohol and drug abuse, crime and mental health although these policy areas cut across a number of overarching policy areas.

When you recognize the depth and breadth of the work-family balancing topic, it should immediately become clear that it should be a top tier issue of concern.

Advocates for family policies like paid parental leave tend to separate their advocacy from other dimensions of the overarching work-family balancing issue because they try to address one issue at a time. Because taking care of infants and toddlers is not regarded as a muscular national priority, advocates also struggle to get adequate attention for the issue. Moreover, these advocates do not want to hitch paid parental leave to what most politicians and most members of the media regard as a second or third tier issue, namely the larger concept of work-family balance.

After over 40 years of advocacy on Capitol Hill and no federal national paid parental leave policy for all families with newborns -- The Family and Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of job protection for some workers but no wage replacements -- it is also hard to say paid parental leave is a top tier policy issue since there has never been such a policy.

Regarding child-care funding or federal tax credits there certainly are federal programs, including transfer payment programs and federal tax credits, for child care. Most of these, however, are in the $2,500 to $3,500 per child range (though higher during national crises like the COVID-19 crisis) which is at best a third of the cost parents face.

It is not hard to see why child-care advocates, be they feminist organizations like Mom's Rising, the National Women's Law Center and the National Organization of Women or children's organizations like Save the Children and the Children's Defense Fund, always have ambitious agendas. Although they have accomplished a great deal, there is so much more that could be achieved if the work-family balance problem was addressed with the care and respect it deserves.

Advocates for major family policies would do well to spell out the absolutely massive nature of the work family-balancing issue so that U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators and the president and his Cabinet frame decisions about the many policies that concern this issue appropriately.

Unlike the abortion issue and the gun control issue, the family-work balance issue is not a wedge issue or a hot button issue that divides the public into blue and red camps.

The work-family balance issue is a set of issues about child-care, parental rights as well as needs to work for economic, cognitive and emotional reasons, employer needs and responsibilities to elicit maximum motivation from their employees, and the value for those parents who would benefit from a tax credit for stay-at-home parents rather than child-care funding when children are very young.

If the work-family balance problem is conceptualized with all of its scope and complexity, there is a better chance that it will be resolved. Yet so long as it is compartmentalized into a potential separate twelve week paid parental leave program and a separate federal tax credit for child-care expenses or benefits provided from employers, the overarching very complex work-family balance problem will never be resolved.

Kevin McCarthy's impeachment inquiry proves there's only one political party of revenge—the GOP

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.

It was nearly 80 years from Congress' creation to the first impeachment of a president, Andrew Johnson in 1868, and 130 years more until the second, Bill Clinton in 1998, both of them Democrats impeached by Republican House majorities. That total—two impeachments in more than two centuries—doubled in just over a year with the 2019 and 2021 impeachments of Donald Trump by a Democratic-controlled House.

And now, only three years later, we have House Republicans hellbent on impeaching President Joe Biden.

Yet to conclude that we've entered into a sorry new era of tit-for-tat impeachments—as some scholars and other observers have suggested since House Speaker Kevin McCarthy ordered up an impeachment "inquiry" last week—amounts to simplistic bothsidesism. It's wrong.

By such reasoning, Democrats and Republicans alike are engaged in a vengeful, self-perpetuating cycle of seeking to oust a president of the opposite party, even when it's clear the Senate won't vote for conviction. No, what we have here is one party, a radicalized Republican Party, playing tit for tat and thereby normalizing the Constitution's most extreme check on the presidency.

And it takes its marching orders from the former president, who has gone so far as to make "retribution" a literal campaign promise. "Either IMPEACH the BUM, or fade into OBLIVION," Trump harangued House Republicans last month in an anti-Biden post on his social media site. "THEY DID IT TO US!"

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, no fan of Trump or of the House Republicans' extremism, nonetheless recently tried to justify their rogue behavior with a bit of I-told-you-so schadenfreude: "I said two years ago, when we had not one but two [Trump] impeachments, that once we go down this path it incentivizes the other side to do the same thing." He scolded: "This is not good for the country."

Indeed, it's not. But the Biden impeachment inquiry is not the "same thing" at all as the House actions in 2019 and 2021.

Both of Trump's impeachments were well-deserved, based on hard evidence of abuses of presidential power that fit well within the Constitution's definition of impeachable offenses: "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

It's hard to believe that the founders wouldn't agree that their criteria encompassed a commander in chief who withheld military aid from an ally fearing invasion by a shared enemy—aid he'd signed into law after Congress approved it—to pressure the ally to investigate the president's political rival: "I would like you to do us a favor." And it's all but certain that the founders would approve of sanctioning a president for "incitement of insurrection" to overturn a demonstrably fair election and remain in power.

Contrast those justifiable instances of Trump's comeuppance with McCarthy and Co. opening an inquiry into Biden's … what? They can't tell you: The grounds for impeaching Biden are yet to be filled in. That's what an inquiry is for, McCarthy says.

Yet the hapless Javerts in the House have been investigating Biden and his troubled son Hunter, seeking ever-elusive evidence that the president was enriched by his son's influence-peddling, since even before the Republicans took control of the chamber in January. McCarthy's announcement of an inquiry changed nothing about that long-running investigation. It merely allowed the speaker to say the word "impeachment" in hopes of appeasing the bloodthirsty MAGA minions.

The move appeased no one. Meanwhile, more sane House Republicans kvetched that the so-far-baseless crusade was interfering with the real business of Congress—like funding the government and avoiding a shutdown on Oct. 1. (At least the impeach-Biden obsession has distracted Republicans from their talk of impeaching others in his Cabinet, though Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene assured reporters recently, "You can fire more than one person at a time.")

Let's say the House Republicans eventually do unite in impeaching Biden. Even then, the Democrats' record of recent decades offers no sign that they would seek revenge through impeachment when they next find themselves in power opposite a Republican president. To be sure, they might act on actual evidence again if Trump is reelected. He has virtually promised to abuse power in a second term.

Democrats are not political patsies, but even many Republicans will tell you that their foes have a responsibility gene when it comes to government: Democrats tend to want it to work reasonably well; impeachments and shutdowns upset the regular order. It is Republicans, increasingly over the last quarter-century, who've become the chaos agents.

Then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi long resisted calls on her left to impeach Trump as he broke norms and bent laws one after another as president. "He's just not worth it," she said—until his blatant Ukraine shakedown and election conniving left her no choice. Similarly, when she and Democrats took power after 2006, she declared that impeaching President George W. Bush over the Iraq war was "off the table"—this despite Democrats' lingering bitterness about Republicans' impeachment of Clinton over his cover-up of an affair.

Kevin McCarthy has none of his predecessor's principles or leadership skills. In opening the investigation of the president, under pressure from Trump to weaken Biden for the 2024 election, he is doing exactly what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had the courage to refuse to do in 2019.

Pelosi, now a backbencher by choice, is just taking it all in, without pleasure. "For them to use [impeachment] in the frivolous way that they are is really a disservice to the country," she said on MSNBC's "The Sunday Show," adding, "This is almost silly, except that it's so serious."

Yes, it is serious. Only the Republicans are not. They alone are treating impeachment as if it were just another hammer in the political toolbox, cheapening its power now and for the foreseeable future.

How one whale's tragic death could ignite a movement

By JOHN RACANELLI
The Baltimore Sun

John Racanelli is CEO of the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

The death last month of the killer whale known as Tokitae or Lolita touched a raw nerve in our culture. Toki lived 53 years in a deteriorating tank at Miami Seaquarium—a home that nearly everyone agreed was both inadequate and horrifically small for an animal whose wild counterparts often travel up to 100 miles a day. From her inhumane 1970 capture in Penn's Cove, Washington, until last month, she endured life in a tank barely four times her length.

Last year, a new owner made the courageous decision to try to set things right with Toki by allowing a consortium of NGOs and donors to launch an unprecedented effort to return her to her native waters. Why go to such expense and effort for an animal arguably in her twilight years? Every member of the "Friends of Toki" team with whom I spoke talked of dignity. In her proposed sea pen near the San Juan Islands, they even allowed themselves to imagine she might encounter her mother, thought to be the surviving matriarch of the endangered Southern Resident L-Pod.

The cause of Toki's death last month is still unknown. One thing is certain: There will be innumerable opinions, along with questions as to why she wasn't simply left to live out her years in relative peace. But the questions at the heart of this issue are values-based, not practical, for we cannot know what constitutes "quality of life" for a species this intelligent and different from our own.

What motivates humans to dedicate themselves with such fervor to the welfare of one animal? In my view, it's compassion. We humans are equipped with an innate capacity for empathy—the act of caring for others and sharing their lived experience—though we are notorious for routinely losing sight of it. But, in our best moments, we also show a unique capability to act on that care, to be moved to help those in need.

So it is with whales and dolphins (collectively, cetaceans), a family of animals that are arguably among our closest evolutionary analogues. They share our large brain—actually, theirs are larger. They live in socially complex groupings. They use tools, communicate over long distances, grieve the loss of relatives and engage in recreational sex. Had evolution given them a thumb, there's no telling what kind of underwater metropolises they might have built.

These are many reasons why some humans have reached the conclusion that we've done them an injustice by taking them from their ocean home and placing them in artificial environments to entertain us. I am one of those who has concluded that this nearly century-long experiment has run its course. Although we once hunted whales for blubber and shot orcas for eating "our" salmon, perhaps we've reached a turning point in our relationship with cetaceans. While there's no undoing what's been done to Toki and the 132 orcas who have died in captivity, an estimated 3,600 whales and dolphins remain in human care worldwide. Most were born into that life and have therefore never hunted their prey, swum in the open ocean or even felt the sensation of rain on their dorsal fins.

Dependent though they are on humans for food and care, what if we could give this remnant population a measure of freedom and dignity? This is what Toki's rescuers were trying to do, and it is what the nonprofit National Aquarium has resolved to do with its colony of six Atlantic bottlenose dolphins.

There are many good and practical reasons for creating cetacean sanctuaries, but the most compelling is also the one that shows the greatest potential: to begin to repair humankind's broken relationship with nature. We are at risk of losing our innate connection to the living ecosystems that sustain us.

Some are working to restore that connection, and one way is by creating sanctuaries for species we once held captive. These include elephants, chimpanzees, gorillas, tigers, lions, racehorses, farm animals and even cats and dogs. Yet none exist for dolphins and whales. Why?

For one, it is incredibly hard to construct an authentic, ocean-water sanctuary big enough to allow natural social groupings among far-ranging species, while still ensuring that humans can provide the requisite care these captive-born animals need. Unfortunately, like us, cetaceans learn most of their life skills from their parents. Captivity has robbed this generation of the skills they would need to survive in the wild, like hunting prey and avoiding predators. Experts agree their likelihood of surviving, if simply released at sea, would be low at best.

Hard or not, the work to create cetacean sanctuaries continues. The UK-based SeaLife Trust currently operates a beluga sanctuary in Iceland. The Whale Sanctuary Project has secured a bay in Nova Scotia, Canada, for the same purpose. The National Aquarium is actively pursuing sites in the Caribbean for a dolphin sanctuary. Such facilities are expensive; capital costs for each range from $15-25 million. But the will is strong, and the science supports it. Indeed, the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries recently released its first-ever standards for cetaceans. Sanctuaries will be built, if enough donors step forward to usher in this new era for dolphins and whales in human care.

Toki's 53 years in captivity were tragic—but they were not wasted. If her story can catalyze this movement and help us address the disconnection that threatens our sacred relationship with the natural world that sustains us, then her life can still have purpose.

We are a part of nature as much as the ocean's most remarkable denizens. Like them, we can trace our origins to the sea, from which all life sprang. We mammals came ashore, but for some evolutionary reason, cetaceans returned. For the next 50 million years, they refined their superb adaptation to that dynamic, ever-changing ecosystem. It is their birthright. Perhaps, if we can give that back to them, we can restore a measure of our own connection to nature. And our compassion for it, and for each other.

SCUTTLING

From page 8

the actors onstage, dignity is already in short enough supply in Washington.

While it's unlikely that Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, will carry out her joking threat of showing up in the Senate chamber in a bikini, the potential for political fashion faux pas here is immense. Ponder the issue of T-shirts alone. "I'm with Stupid >" is among the milder possibilities of partisan mischief that, once you start thinking about it, feel almost inevitable.

It's not just about how the dresser is perceived; it's about how the dresser perceives him- or herself. Studies have long shown that one's mode of dress affects decorum and professionalism.

Not that a jacket and tie necessarily guarantee those qualities (heaven knows), but elected leaders should at least try and look the part. Especially in an era where too few of them act it.

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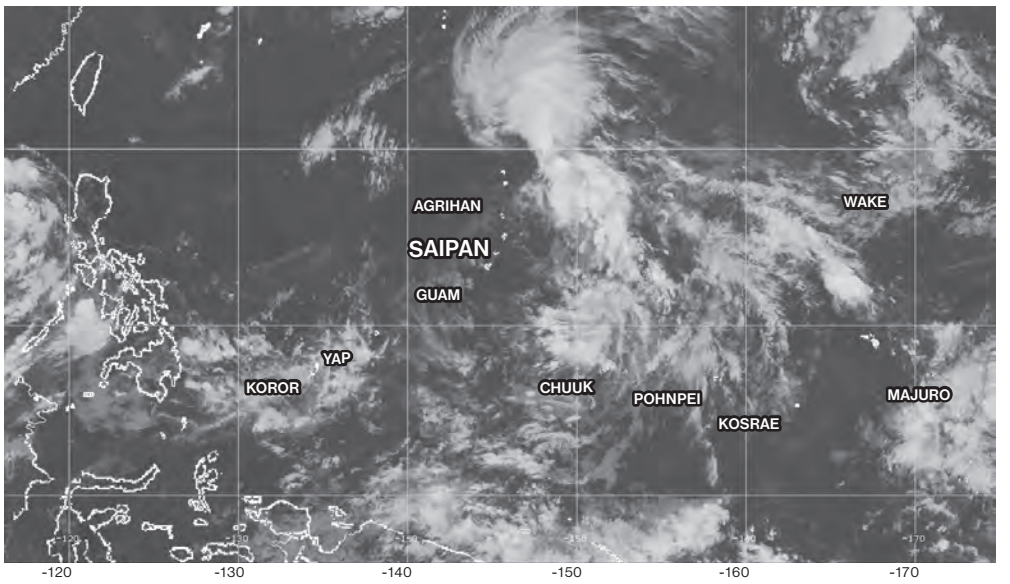
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The Ipan buoy reveals a 2 to 4 foot east-northeast swell, while computer wave model guidance shows a 1 to 2 foot west swell which is not visible to the buoy, giving combined seas of 3 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	88° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:30 AM	3:51 PM
Wednesday	-	3:34 AM	4:39 PM
Thursday	-	4:36 AM	5:24 PM
Friday	-	5:36 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	-	6:35 AM	6:48 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	61° / 48°
Beijing	Sunny	84° / 57°
Hong Kong	Sunny	90° / 77°
Honolulu	Showers	88° / 77°
London	Sunny	72° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 75°
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
New York	Sunny	81° / 64°
Osaka	Rain	75° / 72°
Paris	Sunny	72° / 50°
Busan	Rain	73° / 68°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	85° / 62°
San Francisco	Sunny	71° / 55°
Seoul	Cloudy	75° / 63°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75° / 63°
Washington, DC	Sunny	81° / 59°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
3:30 AM	High Tide	1.74
10:56 AM	Low Tide	-0.17
6:12 PM	High Tide	1.94
11:47 PM	Low Tide	1.10

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Chuseok celebrations at Hyatt Regency Saipan

Hyatt Regency Saipan is celebrating Chuseok, Korea's traditional answer to Thanksgiving. Kili Café & Terrace will offer a dinner on Saturday and Giovanni's will service its traditional Sunday brunch, both with typical Korean flavors.

Chuseok is also a holiday that brings loved ones together to honor one's ancestors, share a meal from recipes that have been handed down from one generation to another, and to give thanks for a bountiful year.

Get excited with a Korean barbecue, especially paired with other local and international favorites; from appetizers, mains to desserts, all at Kili Café & Terrace on Saturday, from 6pm to 9pm.

The Chuseok evening will begin with Korean appetizers that aims to whet the appetite such as oi muchim (cucumber, spring onion, chili, sesame and soy sauce), kattdugi (Korean radish, red pepper powder, fish sauce, garlic, ginger, sesame) and japchae (glass noodles, egg, onion, cucumber and carrots).

A gastronomical feast will follow starting with LA Kalbi, bulgogi and gochujang saewu gui. Match it with kalbi jjim and this special dinner is should end by indulging with Songpyeon or rice cake and yaksik (sticky rice, pine nut, jujube, chestnut) both quintessential Chuseok desserts.

Pair your meal with free flow of beer for only $55 and $41.25 for Club at the Hyatt members. Add $15 for free flow soju package (good for two hours).

Sunday Brunch at Giovanni's from 11am to 2pm will not be left behind celebrating Chuseok, because aside from an array of local and international dishes, it will highlight Korean food staples such as gochujang pepper rub (roasted pork), Korean fried chicken, seafood pancake, mu kuk (beef soup), LA Kalbi, and bulgogi chicken.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Korean food favorite beef bulgogi will be served at the Korean Barbecue Corner at Marianas Barbecue & Grill from 6pm to 9pm at Kili Café & Terrace on Sept. 30, 2023.

Top your brunch with unlimited flow of sparkling wine for only $60 or $45 for Club at the Hyatt members. Add another $15 for free flow soju (good for two hours).

Save your memories at the Happy Chuseok photo zone located at the entrance of Kili Café & Terrace. That your Chuseok celebrations will bring you and your family more bounty for the rest of the year.

For reservations, please visit saipan.regency.hyatt.com and click "dining" tab or call (670) 234-1234. ***(PR)***

Colleagues implore House GOP holdouts not to shut down gov't

WASHINGTON (AP)—Working furiously to take control of a House in disarray, allies of Speaker Kevin McCarthy implored their Republican colleagues Saturday to drop their hardline tactics and work together to approve a conservative spending plan to prevent a federal shutdown.

In public overtures and private calls, Republican lieutenants of the embattled speaker pleaded with a handful of right-flank holdouts to resist further disruptions that have ground the House to a halt and back McCarthy's latest plan to keep government open before next weekend's Sept. 30 deadline for a shutdown.

Republican Rep. Garrett Graves of Louisiana said the holdouts are "absolutely hallucinating" if they think they can wrap up work without the need for a temporary measure that many of them have shunned before time runs out.

"An important part of this strategy is going to be ensuring that we do everything we can to avoid a government shutdown," Graves said after a Saturday afternoon conference call with lawmakers.

But in a sign of the deep divisions still ahead, one of the conservative holdouts, Rep. Matt Rosendale, R-Mont., walked past the McCarthy allies' news conference at the Capitol, telling reporters he remained firm in his position.

Asked if he was worried about a potential shutdown, Rosendale said: "Life is going to go on."

President Joe Biden on Saturday chided the "small group of extreme Republicans" who were threatening a shutdown in which "everyone in America could be forced to pay the price."

"If the government shuts down, that means members of the U.S. military are going to have to continue to work and not get paid," he told a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation dinner. "A government shutdown could impact everything from food safety to cancer research to Head Start programs for children. Funding the government is one of the most basic responsibilities of Congress. It's time for Republicans to start doing the job America elected them to do."

Congress had largely emptied out for the weekend as the House ground to a standstill, and the White House instructed federal agencies to begin preparing for a possible shutdown. The House Rules Committee held a rare Saturday session to begin setting up the process for next week's voting.

Time is running out for Congress to act, but McCarthy is pushing ahead with plan urged on by his right flank to start voting on some of the dozen bills needed to fund the various government departments.

Under the current strategy, the House would start voting as soon as Tuesday to advance some of the dozen bills needed to fund the government. Then, with time running short, the House would turn toward a stopgap measure to keep government open for about a month while work continues.

Writers Guild, Hollywood studios reach tentative deal to end strike

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Union leaders and Hollywood studios reached a tentative agreement Sunday to end a historic screenwriters strike after nearly five months, though no deal is yet in the works for striking actors.

The Writers Guild of America announced the deal in a joint statement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, the group that represents studios, streaming services and production companies in negotiations.

"WGA has reached a tentative agreement with the AMPTP," the guild said in an email to members. "This was made possible by the enduring solidarity of WGA members and extraordinary support of our union siblings who joined us on the picket lines for over 146 days."

The three-year contract agreement—settled on after five marathon days of renewed talks by WGA and AMPTP negotiators that was joined at times by studio executives—must be approved by the guild's board and members before the strike officially ends.

In a longer message from the guild shared by members on social media, the writers were told the strike is not over and no one was to return to work until hearing otherwise, but picketing is to be suspended immediately.

The terms of the deal were not immediately announced. The tentative deal to end the last writers strike, in 2008, was approved by more than 90% of members.

The agreement comes just five days before the strike would've become the longest in the guild's history, and the longest Hollywood strike more than 70 years.

As a result of the agreement, nightly network shows including NBC's "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" and ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" could return to the air within days.

But as writers prepare to potentially crack open their laptops again, it's far from back to business as usual in Hollywood, as talks have not yet resumed between studios and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Crew members left with no work by the stoppage will remain unemployed for now.

"SAG-AFTRA congratulates the WGA on reaching a tentative agreement with the AMPTP after 146 days of incredible strength, resiliency and solidarity on the picket lines," the actors union said in a statement. "While we look forward to reviewing the WGA and AMPTP's tentative agreement, we remain committed to achieving the necessary terms for our members."

The statement said the guild continues "to urge the studio and streamer CEOs and the AMPTP to return to the table and make the fair deal that our members deserve and demand."

The proposed solution to the writers strike came after talks resumed on Wednesday for the first time in a month. Chief executives including Bob Iger of Disney, Ted Sarandos of Netflix, David Zaslav of Warner Bros. Discovery and Donna Langley of NBCUniversal reportedly took part in the negotiations directly.

It was reached without the intervention of federal mediators or other government officials, which had been necessary in previous strikes.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass issued a statement congratulating the two sides on the deal and said she is hopeful the same can happen soon with actors.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom did the same, saying writers "went on strike over existential threats to their careers and livelihoods—expressing real concerns over the stress and anxiety workers are feeling. I am grateful that the two sides have come together."

About 11,500 members of the Writers Guild of America walked off the job May 2 over issues of pay, the size of writing staffs on shows and the use of artificial intelligence in the creation of scripts. Actors, who joined the writers on strike in July, have their own issues but there have been no discussions about resuming negotiations with their union yet.

The writers strike immediately sent late-night talk shows and "Saturday Night Live" into hiatus, and has since sent dozens of scripted shows and other productions into limbo, including forthcoming seasons of Netflix's "Stranger Things," HBO's "The Last of Us," and ABC's "Abbot Elementary," and films including "Deadpool 3" and "Superman: Legacy." The Emmy Awards were also pushed from September to January.

Nation

Residents prepare to return to sites of homes demolished in Lahaina wildfire

HONOLULU (AP)—From just outside the burn zone in Lahaina, Jes Claydon can see the ruins of the rental home where she lived for 13 years and raised three children. Little remains recognizable beyond the jars of sea glass that stood outside the front door.

On Monday, officials will begin lifting restrictions on entry to the area, and Claydon hopes to collect those jars and any other mementos she might find.

"I want the freedom to just be there and absorb what happened," Claydon said. "Whatever I might find, even if it's just those jars of sea glass, I'm looking forward to taking it. ... It's a piece of home."

Authorities will begin allowing the first residents and property owners to return to their properties in the burn zone, many for the first time since it was demolished nearly seven weeks ago, on Aug. 8, by the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century.

The prospect of returning has stirred strong emotions in residents who fled in vehicles or on foot as the wind-whipped flames raced across Lahaina, the historic capital of the former Hawaiian kingdom, and overcame people stuck in traffic trying to escape. Some survivors jumped over a sea wall and sheltered in the waves as hot black smoke blotted out the sun. The wildfire killed at least 97 people and destroyed more than 2,000 buildings, most of them homes.

AP

The hall of historic Waiola Church in Lahaina and nearby Lahaina Hongwanji Mission are engulfed in flames along Wainee Street on Aug. 8, 2023, in Lahaina, Hawaii.

Claydon's home was a single-story cinderblock house painted a reddish-tan, similar to the red dirt in Lahaina. She can see the property from a National Guard blockade that has kept unauthorized people out of the burn zone. A few of the walls are still standing, and some green lawn remains, she said.

Authorities have divided the burned area into 17 zones and dozens of sub-zones. Residents or property owners of the first to be cleared for reentry — known as Zone 1C, along Kaniau Road in the north part of Lahaina — will be allowed to return on supervised visits Monday and Tuesday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Those eligible could pick up passes from Friday to Sunday in advance.

Darryl Oliveira, interim administrator of the Maui Emergency Management Agency, said officials also want to ensure that they have the space and privacy to reflect or grieve as they see fit.

"They anticipate some people will only want to go for a very short period of time, a few minutes to say goodbye in a way to their property," Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said last week. "Others may want to stay several hours. They're going to be very accommodating."

Those returning will be provided water, shade, washing stations, portable toilets, medical and mental health care, and transportation assistance if needed. Nonprofit groups are also offering personal protective equipment, including masks and coveralls. Officials have warned that ash could contain asbestos, lead, arsenic or other toxins.

While some residents, like Claydon, might be eager to find jewelry, photographs or other tokens of their life before the fire, officials are urging them not to sift through the ashes for fear of raising toxic dust that could endanger them or their neighbors downwind.

NASA's first asteroid samples land on Earth after release from spacecraft

By MARCIA DUNN
AP AEROSPACE WRITER

NASA's first asteroid samples fetched from deep space parachuted into the Utah desert Sunday to cap a seven-year journey.

In a flyby of Earth, the Osiris-Rex spacecraft released the sample capsule from 63,000 miles (100,000 kilometers) out. The small capsule landed four hours later on a remote expanse of military land, as the mothership set off after another asteroid.

"We have touchdown!" Mission Recovery Operations announced, immediately repeating the news since the landing occurred three minutes early. Officials later said the orange striped parachute opened four times higher than anticipated—around 20,000 feet (6,100 meters)—basing it on the deceleration rate.

To everyone's relief, the capsule was intact and not breached, keeping its 4.5 billion-year-old samples free of contamination. Within two hours of touchdown, the capsule was inside a temporary clean room at the Defense Department's Utah Test and Training Range, hoisted there by helicopter.

The sealed sample canister will be flown on Monday to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, where it will be opened in a new, specially designed lab. The building already houses the hundreds of pounds (kilograms) of moon rocks gathered by the Apollo astronauts.

"We can't wait to crack into it. For me, the real science is just beginning," said the mission's lead scientist, Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona. He'll accompany the samples all the way to Texas.

Lori Glaze, NASA's planetary science division director, added: "Those are going to be a treasure for scientific analysis for years and years and years to come."

Scientists estimate the capsule holds at least a cup of rubble from the carbon-rich asteroid known as Bennu, but won't know for sure until the container is opened in a day or two. Some spilled and floated away when the spacecraft scooped up too much material, which jammed the container's lid during collection three years ago.

Japan, the only other country to bring back samples, gathered about a teaspoon during a pair of asteroid missions.

Ophelia still poses risk of coastal flooding, heavy rain in some parts of US

Nearly a day after being downgraded from a tropical storm, Ophelia still threatened parts of the Northeast on Sunday with coastal flooding, life-threatening waves and heavy rain from Washington to New York City, the National Hurricane Center said.

As Ophelia weakened, a new tropical storm named Philippe brewed in the Atlantic.

Even though Ophelia was downgraded Saturday night, meteorologists warned that swells generated by the storm would affect the East Coast for the rest of the weekend, likely causing dangerous surf conditions and rip currents. Ophelia was also expected to drop 1 to 3 inches (2.5 to 7.6 centimeters) of additional rain over parts of the Mid-Atlantic and New England. Isolated river flooding was also possible.

Ophelia was south of Washington on Sunday morning and was expected to continue moving northeast before turning east and then weakening more over the next two days, according to the hurricane center. Meanwhile, Philippe was 1,175 miles (1,890 kilometers) west of the Cabo Verde Islands, which are off the west coast of Africa. That storm had maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (75 kph).

The National Weather Service said numerous New Jersey communities reported coastal flooding, including, including Sea Isle City and Brielle. Thousands of people in the state remained without power Sunday. NJ.com reported more than 6,000 customers were without electricity Sunday morning, down from a high of 13,000.

Flooding and road closures were also reported in coastal Delaware.

The storm came ashore Saturday near Emerald Isle, North Carolina, with near-hurricane-strength winds of 70 mph (113 kph), but the winds weakened as the system traveled north, the hurricane center said.

Videos from social media showed significant flooding in the state's riverfront communities such as New Bern, Belhaven and Washington. A few thousand North Carolina homes and businesses remained without electricity Sunday morning, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports.

Even before making landfall, Ophelia proved treacherous enough that five people, including three children, had to be rescued Friday night by the Coast Guard. They were aboard a 38-foot (12-meter) catamaran stuck in choppy water and strong winds while anchored off Cape Lookout, North Carolina.

On Saturday, Greenville police posted a video on Facebook of an officer rescuing a small pit bull from floodwaters. Police said the dog was tied to a fence and "just inches from drowning" when an officer responded after someone called authorities. Animal protection authorities opened an investigation.

Elsewhere, a rescue team helped the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office evacuate 15 people from a campground between the Pamlico River and the Chocowinity Bay, according to Brian Haines, a spokesperson for the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management.

At the southern tip of North Carolina's Outer Banks, organizers on Sunday were finally able to open the long-running Beaufort Pirate Invasion, a weekend event centered on the 1747 Spanish attack on the town. Winds tore down the big tent for a banquet planned for Saturday, and several other tents were damaged or shredded.

In other developments, high winds forced New York City officials to suspend ferry service to Rockaway. Other ferries were operating on schedule.

The governors of North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland each declared a state of emergency on Friday.

Scientists say climate change could result in hurricanes expanding their reach into mid-latitude regions more often, making storms like this month's Hurricane Lee more common.

One study simulated tropical cyclone tracks from pre-industrial times, modern times and a future with higher emissions. It found that hurricanes would track closer to the coasts, including around Boston, New York City and Virginia, and would be more likely to form along the Southeast coast. ***(AP)***

Asia

N. Korea calls South's leader 'guy with a trash-like brain'

AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un shake hands during their meeting at the Vostochny cosmodrome outside the city of Tsiolkovsky, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) from the city of Blagoveshchensk in the far eastern Amur region, Russia, on Sept. 13, 2023.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Monday called South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol "a guy with a trash-like brain" and "a diplomatic idiot" as it blasted him for using a U.N. speech to issue a warning over the North's deepening military ties with Russia.

» As it slams his UN speech

In a speech at the U.N. General Assembly last week, Yoon said South Korea "will not sit idly by" if North Korea and Russia agree to weapons deals that would pose a threat to the South.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's trip to Russia earlier this month to meet President Vladimir Putin and visit key military sites raised international concern about a possible push by North Korea to receive sophisticated nuclear and weapons technologies in return for replenishing Russia's conventional arms inventory depleted by its war with Ukraine.

"Puppet traitor Yoon Suk Yeol, even at the 78th U.N. General Assembly, malignantly slandered the relations between (North Korea) and Russia," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said in a commentary.

Without addressing the worries about a possible weapons deal with Russia, KCNA said it's "quite natural" and a "legitimate right" for neighboring countries to keep close ties with each other.

"It's self-evident that such a guy with a trash-like brain cannot understand the profound and enormous meaning of the development of (North Korea)-Russia friendly relations," KCNA said. "No one in the world would lend an ear to the hysteric fit of puppet traitor Yoon Suk Yeol, who is only wearing disgraceful ill fames of 'political immature,' 'diplomatic idiot' and 'incompetent chief executive.'"

Koo Byoungsam, a spokesperson for South Korea's Unification Ministry, said the KCNA insults demonstrated North Korea's "substandard system that lacks basic etiquette and common sense."

Since taking office last year, Yoon, a conservative former prosecutor, has sought to strengthen South Korea's military alliance with the United States, drawing an angry response from North Korea. Monday's KCNA dispatch accused Yoon of "voluntarily acting as a servile trumpeter and loudspeaker for the U.S."

Also Monday, the South Korean and U.S. navies began three days of joint naval drills off the Korean Peninsula's east coast to improve their joint operational capability, according to South Korea's navy. North Korea views South Korean-U.S. military exercises as invasion rehearsals and typically reacts with its own missile tests.

The U.S. and South Korea have warned that Russia and North Korea will face undefined consequences if they enter into weapons transfer deals in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any weapons trade with North Korea. Russia, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, endorsed those U.N. resolutions.

India passes law reserving 3rd of legislature seats for women from 2029

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's Parliament has approved landmark legislation that reserves one-third of the seats in its powerful lower house and in state legislatures for women to ensure more equal representation, ending a 27-year impasse over the bill amid a lack of consensus among political parties.

But the wait is still not over, as the new law will not apply to next year's national elections.

It will be implemented in the 2029 national elections following a new census and adjustment of voting districts after next year's polls, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said during a debate in the upper house of India's Parliament on Thursday night.

The lower house of Parliament approved the legislation on Wednesday with a 454-2 vote, and the upper house passed it unanimously, 214-0, late Thursday.

India's once-a-decade census was to be held in 2021 but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All opposition parties supported the bill and said the delay in its implementation is an injustice to women. They demanded it apply to the next national elections, which are due to be held before May next year.

Rahul Gandhi, an opposition Congress party leader, said the new legislation could be implemented immediately and accused the Modi government of adopting a diversionary tactic. "This is not a complicated issue," he told reporters.

His mother, Sonia Gandhi, also a Congress party lawmaker, said Indian women have been waiting for this opportunity for years. "And now they are being asked to wait for some more years. How many years?" she asked on Wednesday during the debate in Parliament.

World

AS WAR ENTERS 20TH MONTHS

Russian airstrikes kill 2 and wound 8 in southern Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian airstrikes on Sunday killed two people and wounded eight others in southern Ukraine's Kherson province, the region's governor reported Sunday as the war in Ukraine entered its 20th month.

Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said Russian forces struck the city of Beryslav, destroying an unspecified number of private houses. A woman was killed and three people were wounded, including a police officer, he said.

Another airstrike killed a 67-year-old man in the village of Lvove, Prokudin said without specifying the type of weapons used in the attack.

In the city of Kherson, the region's capital, a total of five people were wounded Sunday as the result of repeated Russian bombing, the governor said.

The communities hit are both located in the Ukraine-controlled part of the Kherson region, where the Dnieper River that bisects the province has marked a battle line since Russian troops withdrew across it in November 2022, a retreat that boosted the invaded country's morale.

The Russians regrouped on the river's eastern bank and regularly shell cities and villages across the river, including the city of Kherson that was occupied early on in the war but retaken by Ukrainian forces more than 10 months ago.

In another front-line Ukrainian region, Donetsk, the Russian-installed authorities on Sunday imposed a number of restrictions on the occupied areas: a curfew from 11 p.m. till 4 a.m. on weekdays, a ban on any rallies or protests, and military censorship of any correspondence, online messages and phone conversations. It wasn't immediately clear how such a censorship would operate.

In Russia, a Ukrainian drone hit an administrative building in the city of Kursk and "insignificantly damaged" the roof, regional Gov. Roman Starovoit reported. He didn't report any casualties or say what the building housed.

Unconfirmed media reports both in Russia and Ukraine said it was the offices of the Kursk branch of Russia's main security agency, the Federal Security Service, also known as the FSB.

The Kursk region of Russia borders Ukraine and also is a frequent target of attacks. The drone strike on Sunday took place as residents commemorated the anniversary of the regional capital's founding.

There was no immediate comment from the Ukrainian authorities, who usually don't acknowledge responsibility for attacks on Russian territory.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was traveling home from North America, where he addressed the U.N. General Assembly and paid his first wartime visit to Canada. In a social media statement Saturday, Zelenskyy said he stopped in Poland on his way back to Ukraine to give state awards to two Polish volunteers.

Zelenskyy apparently didn't meet with any Polish officials, but in a post on X, previously known as Twitter, he thanked Poland for "its invaluable support and solidarity that helps defend freedom of our entire Europe."

Poland has taken in large numbers of Ukrainian refugees and been a fierce supporter of neighboring Ukraine since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into the country on Feb. 24, 2022. However, a trade dispute has recently tested the relationship between Kyiv and Warsaw.

The Ukrainian government this month filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization against Poland, Hungary and Slovakia for banning imports of Ukrainian farm products, which are important for the war-weary country's battered economy.

Israeli airstrikes hit Gaza for 3rd day in a row as West Bank violence intensifies

NOUR SHAMS REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank (AP)—Israeli airstrikes struck militant sites in Gaza on Sunday for the third straight day, the Israeli military said, after Palestinian militants near the border fence launched incendiary balloons into Israel and threw an explosive at soldiers. The strike came on the heels of an Israeli military raid in the northern West Bank that Palestinian health officials said killed two Palestinians.

It was the latest bloodshed in a surge of violence during a sensitive Jewish holiday period. A series of violent escalations on the border between Israel and Gaza over the past week has raised the specter of an escalation for the first time since a brief round of conflict last May between Israel and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group.

It comes at a fraught time. Jews are set to mark Yom Kippur, the holiest day on their calendar, on Sunday night followed by the weeklong Sukkot festival later in the month.

There were no reported casualties from the strikes in Gaza. Earlier on Sunday, the Israeli military shot and wounded five Palestinians who were rallying at the separation fence along the Israeli frontier with the crowded enclave. It's a familiar tactic for Palestinians in Gaza protesting a 16-year blockade imposed by Israel with Egypt's help. Israel says the blockade is needed to prevent the ruling Hamas militant group from arming itself.

The Israeli army said Sunday it had targeted two posts belonging to Hamas, the militant group that rules Gaza, just east of the Bureij refugee camp and Jabaliya. The posts were close to the fence separating the territory from Israel, where dozens of Palestinians have been holding daily demonstrations for the past week.

For the third time in as many days, media outlets posted photos of militant protesters sending a barrage of balloons attached to incendiary devices over the eastern border. The Israeli army said the balloons set two fires in Israel.

Rising tensions were also palpable in the West Bank.

Earlier in the day, the Israeli military said it moved into the Nour Shams refugee camp, near the town of Tulkarem, to destroy what it described as a militant command center and bomb-storage facility in a building.

It said that engineering units detonated a number of bombs planted under roads and that militants opened fire and hurled explosives, as troops responded with live fire.

Overdrive

Auto review: One massive Mazda: the 2024 CX-90 SUV

By LARRY PRINTZ
Tribune News Service

Well, this isn't an MX-5 Miata, although the all-new 2024 Mazda CX-90 looms large enough to seem as if it could carry one.

Welcome the replacement for the 2023 Mazda CX-9, a rather large SUV meant to do battle with a thicket of three-row competition from the Chevrolet Traverse, Dodge Durango, Ford Explorer, GMC Acadia, Honda Pilot, Hyundai Palisade, Jeep Grand Cherokee L, Kia Telluride, Nissan Pathfinder, Subaru Ascent, Toyota Highlander and Volkswagen Atlas.

TNS

The 2024 Mazda CX-90 has a 14.9-cubic-foot cargo hold that expands to more than 74 cubic feet with both rows folded.

Like the Kia Telluride, the CX-90 is a vehicle with upscale aspirations. For Kia, this is a new affectation; for Mazda it is not. The Hiroshima-based automaker has long produced vehicles that punched above their weight, possessing a certain something that endows their cars with upmarket aura. Certainly, this is no accident, as the new CX-90 has standard rear-wheel-biased all-wheel drive and an inline six-cylinder engine. If this sounds vaguely German, well, at least you understand what Mazda aims to undercut.

But the Mazda stakes its own claim stylistically, with designers choosing refinement over ruggedness. There's no mock allusion to off-roading, as most SUVs go no farther off-road than the driveway where they're parked. The CX-90's sleek urbanity honestly represents what it is: a three-row, eight-passenger all-weather conveyance. Its cabin is lined with sophisticated finishes, such as the suede finish across the instrument panel and ambient interior lighting.

But this cabin is vast, with more room than you'd ever expect from Mazda. The top-of-the-line test model features second-row captain's chairs that prove comfortable with more than enough legroom. By contrast, the front row seems claustrophobic for such a massive Mazda, as the center console is inconveniently wide. But its sides are padded where your legs rest, which is a much-appreciated touch. I did not have a chance, or the inclination, to try the third row. But the 14.9-cubic-foot cargo hold is impressive, and expands to more than 74 cubic feet with both rows folded.

If there's any place that the 2024 Mazda CX-90 proves disappointing, it is the corporate infotainment system, long a Mazda Achilles Heel. Operated by a dial on the center console, its software requires multiple clicks on different parts of the screen to actuate something simple. It's extraordinarily distracting and is overdue to be redesigned. Thankfully, the CX-90 comes with a wireless smartphone charger, USB-C port as well as wireless CarPlay and Android Auto.

Mazda offers the CX-90 with one of three powertrains. The standard CX-90 Turbo, base price $39,595, sports a 48-volt mild hybrid system with a 3.3-liter inline six-cylinder engine that generates 280 horsepower. The CX-90 plug-in hybrid, base price $47,445, comes with a 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine, an electric motor, and a 17.8-kilowatt-hour battery to produce 323 horsepower. Next comes the Turbo S, base price $51,750, and Turbo S Premium Plus, base price $59,950, which have the same engine as the Turbo, but tuned to 340 horsepower, the most output of any Mazda engine. Keep in mind that the Turbo runs on 87 octane fuel, while other models require 91 octane petrol. Regardless of model, an eight-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel drive are standard. Towing is rated at 5,000 pounds with the Towing Package, 3,500 pounds without it.

TNS

The 2024 Mazda CX-90 comes with a wireless smartphone charger, USB-C port as well as wireless CarPlay and Android Auto.

Given that it's a Mazda, you'd expect a fun driving experience, and considering this is a family bus, the CX-90 delivers.

For such a substantial SUV, it proves adeptly athletic, although there's no hiding its avoirdupois while cornering. Nevertheless, body motions are well-controlled, and the weighty steering returns some indication of what's going on underneath the vehicle — always helpful. Yet its power is deceptive, for although it's reassuringly quick with the drive mode set to Sport, it never feels quick. And the automatic stop/start system, which shuts off the engine when idling for long periods of time, restarts with an unrefined shudder. But the inline six-cylinder powerplant is a paragon of smoothness.

The CX-90's immensity, expedience and elegance prove irresistible, making for a far more impressive package than the vehicle it replaces. While this Mazda isn't on every family's three-row SUV shopping list, it should be.

Larry Printz is an automotive journalist based in South Florida. Readers may send him email at TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com.

NUTS & BOLTS

2024 Mazda CX-90

- **Base price**: $39,595-$59,950
- **Engine**: 3.3-liter inline turbocharged six-cylinder
- **Horsepower/Torque**: 340/369 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway)**: 23/28 mpg
- **Observed fuel economy**: 21.8 mpg
- **Fuel required**: 91 Octane
- **Length/Width/Height**: 201.6/78.5/68.7 inches
- **Ground clearance**: 8.1 inches
- **Payload**: 1,519 pounds
- **Cargo capacity**: 14.9-74.2 cubic feet
- **Towing capacity**: 3,500-5,000 pounds

Only 1 tire is bad; why do I have to replace all 4?

Q: My wife recently hit the curb, ruining the right front tire of her 2016 Lincoln MKS. When I went to replace the tire, I was told that that tire was no longer available and, because the car was all-wheel-drive, all four tires had to be replaced. The car has only been driven about 23,000 miles. The other tires have plenty of tread left. Anyways, the tires were replaced at a cost of $1,200. I had heard that all the tires on an all-wheel-drive vehicle had to be the same. When I asked the salesman why, he said he didn't know. Also, I asked what would happen if I just replaced that one tire. Again, he didn't know. Would anything bad have happened to the vehicle if I just replaced the one tire and saved $900?

—E.C., Boston

A: Your car has a viscous coupling that links the front wheels to the rear wheels. Usually, it simply does nothing. But if the wheels on either the front or rear start to spin, fluid in the coupling will congeal and redirect the torque. Mismatched tires cause the coupling to engage all the time, which damages it. All wheels and tires must be the same diameter. Replacing the viscous coupling would cost more than the tires. That's also a good reason to rotate your tires regularly.

Q: I have a Hyundai with the lane-keeping assist feature that gently beeps to tell me I have drifted over the "fog line" as well as reminding me I have crossed a center line. It also gently nudges the steering wheel to correct the action and if I let it, will actually try and steer me back into compliance. It is fairly close to hands-free driving, but not nearly good enough to make that claim. I am assuming it does all of this fancy work via some sort of video sensors that are looking down toward the pavement for the existence (or lack thereof) of some form of painted marking on the road. So, my question is: How does this feature work (and does it work?) on a snow-covered roadway where these painted lines are not visible to the eye? If it is true that it is "looking for the painted lines," then wouldn't that pretty much rule out driverless cars in a climate that even occasionally has snow on the road?

—P.L., Bloomington, Minnesota

A: Forward-pointing cameras, usually located in the rearview mirror, look at the lane markers—the lines on the sides (which some people call fog lines) and the center lines. Obscured lines, missing lines and broken lines render the system useless. Even if the lines are visible, though, you can override the system by manually turning the steering wheel. Lines gone? Hands on.

Q: I have a 2022 Ford Explorer with an aggravating warning to keep my hands on the steering wheel. On long drives this warning comes on several times even though at least one hand is on the wheel. It seems to only be satisfied if I keep my hands at 10 and 2 all the time. Can this feature be shut off?

—D.P., Wauconda, Illinois

A: There is no simple setting to disable the lane-keeping feature. Try wiggling the wheel from time to time. Driving 72 straight miles of Interstate 80 between exit 318 in the Grand Island, Nebraska, area and mile marker 390 near Lincoln may have you wiggling like a worm.

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest.

Life & Style

‘Expend4bles’ opens with epic flop while ‘Nun 2’ claims top spot again at the box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sylvester Stallone and Jason Statham weren’t enough to save “Expend4bles” from a debut box office flop. The fourth installment suffered the action-packed franchise’s worst opening weekend while “The Nun 2” took home the top spot for a third straight week, data firm Comscore reported on Sunday.

The Lionsgate and Millennium’s film, also known as “Expendables 4,” pulled in a mediocre $8.3 million for the big-budget project. It starred several popular names, including Stallone, Statham, Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson, Megan Fox and Dolph Lundgren. It’s been nearly a decade since the franchise released a film, which opened with $15.8 million and eventually grossed $214 million globally.

But times have certainly changed, as the film barely placed second behind “The Nun 2,” a horror movie that earned $8.4 million in its first week. It’s been a solid start for that Warner Bros.’ project—a spinoff from the lucrative “Conjuring” franchise. So far, the Michael Chaves-directed sequel has grossed more than $69 million.

“It’s a star-studded franchise, but horror is a different situation,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “It just seems no matter what if you’re scared in the movie theater a couple times in an hour and a half or two, that’s worth the price of admission.”

In third, “A Haunting in Venice” earned $6.3 million. Kenneth Branagh’s third Agatha Christie adaptation, following 2017’s “Murder on the Orient Express” and 2022’s “Death on the Nile,” has drawn in over $25.3 million after two weeks.

AP

This image released by Lionsgate shows Sylvester Stallone in a scene from “The Expend4bles.”

“The Equalizer 3,” starring Denzel Washington, only dropped to fourth place with $4.725 million. In four weeks, it has grossed $81.1 million domestically.

“Barbie,” the biggest movie of 2023, is still carrying some momentum from the summer into the fall season. The Greta Gerwig box-office smash ranked in the top five, earning $3.2 million this week and a domestic total of more than $630 million after a 10-week period.

- “The Nun II,” $8.4 million.
- “Expend4bles,” $8.3 million.
- “A Haunting in Venice,” $6.3 million.
- “The Equalizer 3,” $4.7 million.
- “Barbie,” $3.2 million.
- “My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3,” $3 million.
- “It Lives Inside,” 2.6 million.
- “Dumb Money,” $2.5 million.
- “Blue Beetle,” $1.8 million.
- “Oppenheimer,” $1.6 million.

Usher to headline the 2024 Super Bowl halftime show in Las Vegas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Usher has a new confession: The Grammy winner will headline the Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show in Las Vegas.

The NFL, Apple Music and Roc Nation announced Sunday that Usher would lead the halftime festivities from Allegiant Stadium on Feb. 11. The music megastar, who has won eight Grammys, said he’s looking forward to performing on the NFL’s biggest stage.

“It’s an honor of a lifetime to finally check a Super Bowl performance off my bucket list,” Usher said in a statement. “I can’t wait to bring the world a show unlike anything else they’ve seen from me before.”

Usher spring boarded into superstardom with “Confessions,” which sold more than 10 million units in the U.S. and earned him eight nominations at the 2005 Grammys, winning him three. He lost album of the year to Ray Charles’ final album “Genius Loves Company,” released two months after the legend died.

AP

Usher performs at the 51st annual Songwriters Hall of Fame induction and awards gala at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel on Thursday, June 16, 2022, in New York.

“Confessions” ranks among one of the best-selling music projects of all time and launched No. 1 hits such as “Yeah!” with Ludacris and Lil Jon, “Burn” and “Confessions Part II.” His special edition version included the smooth hit “My Boo,” a duet with Alicia Keys. Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the epic album.

Usher, 44, is currently headlining his “Usher: My Way” residency in Las Vegas, which has drawn sold-out shows and rave reviews. He's also beginning an eight-night block of performances in Paris on Sunday. Usher is expected to wrap up his Las Vegas residency in early December before he makes his Super Bowl halftime appearance a couple months later.

The singer has served as a coach on NBC’s “The Voice” and appeared in several films including “Hustlers” and “Light It Up.”

Roc Nation founder Jay-Z called Usher the ultimate “artist and showman.”

Taylor Swift turns out to see Travis Kelce, Kansas City Chiefs play Chicago Bears

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Travis Kelce put the ball in Taylor Swift’s court, and she wound up bringing it to Arrowhead Stadium after all.

The 12-time Grammy Award winner took advantage of an invitation from the All-Pro tight end to see the Kansas City Chiefs play the Chicago Bears at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday. Swift was decked out in red and white while watching alongside Kelce’s mother, Donna, from one of the glass-enclosed suites on a sun-splashed afternoon in Kansas City.

She got quite a show, too. Kelce grabbed a 3-yard TD pass in the third quarter, and the reigning Super Bowl champions went on to a 41-10 win.

Kelce did not speak to reporters afterward, but he was spotted leaving Arrowhead with Swift by his side.

“He told me at the last minute” that Swift was coming to the game, said Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, who threw for 272 yards and three scores. “Some things with Trav, he says it and you don’t know if it’s true or not, he says it so calmly.”

Swift is on a break from her Eras Tour, which resumes Nov. 9 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Swift has always been reluctant to discuss her personal life in public, but rumors have been flying about the pop superstar and the football player. They began when Kelce said on his “New Heights” podcast that he was disappointed that he didn’t have the chance to meet Swift and gift her a friendship bracelet during her stop in Kansas City on her Eras Tour.

Mil’s smoking habit has young mother seeing red

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is a heavy smoker. She lives two hours away from us, so when she visits, she likes to stay for one or two nights. My husband and I have a 3-year-old son, and my MIL’s smoking is a huge concern for me.

Every two hours, she smokes outside on our back patio. She seems to think this is her right. She closes the sliding glass door behind her, but I can still smell the smoke inside the entire time. And, of course, when she comes back inside, the smell permeates even more.

After her last visit, our home smelled like an ashtray. My eyes burned, and my son was also rubbing his eyes. By the second day, I’m seething each time she ventures out to smoke. I have asked her in the past to go down the street away from our home, but there’s always an excuse why she can’t. (For example, she doesn’t want to risk walking down the incline of the sidewalk for fear of falling.)

I don’t think it should be her right to expose my child (or us) to her harmful addiction. I need advice on how to make clear that if she intends to visit our home and son in the future, smoking will not be permitted anywhere. My husband thinks we should just tolerate it while she’s here.

FUMING IN THE WEST

DEAR FUMING: As much as I agree that smoking is unhealthy and a social turnoff, your husband is right. His mother is severely addicted to smoking if she can’t go more than two hours without a “fix.” She is cooperating to the extent she can with your house rules, so if you want a relationship with her (if only so your child has a chance to know his grandmother), I suggest you lighten up.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I met a man at the grocery store and I don’t know if he is The One. He seems to keep trying, but at times he says mean things. He also refuses to buy a new bed. His bed is from his divorce. It is the bed he and his ex-wife shared. I’d prefer he get a new one.

Am I too uncompromising? I have been hurt a lot in the past because I was raised to be “nice” and “nonjudgmental,” which really hasn’t been helpful in life. I accepted a lot of mistreatment, and many men hurt me. I am not sure if this guy is any different.

Should I wait to date him until he gets new furniture? At this point, we only talk and text on the phone.

PUT OFF IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PUT OFF: Slow down. With your unfortunate romantic history, it’s important you get to know men before you invest emotionally in them. Because all you do at this point is text each other and talk on the phone, it is premature to expect this guy to shell out for a new bed. (See if you can talk him into investing in a new MATTRESS and work your way up from there.) It may give you an opportunity to gauge how open he is to compromise, which is important in any lasting romantic relationship.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

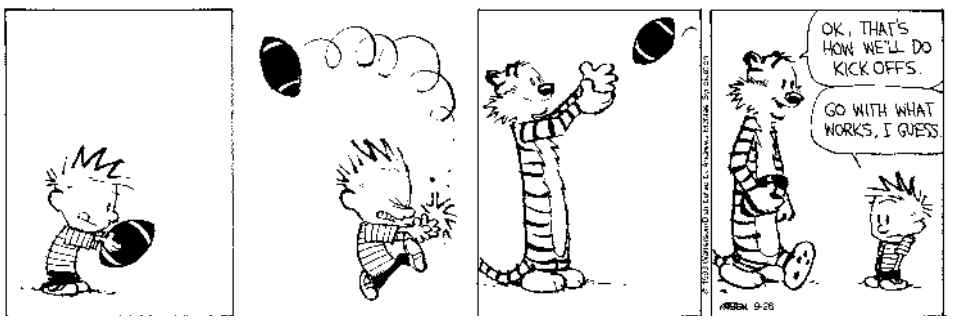
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

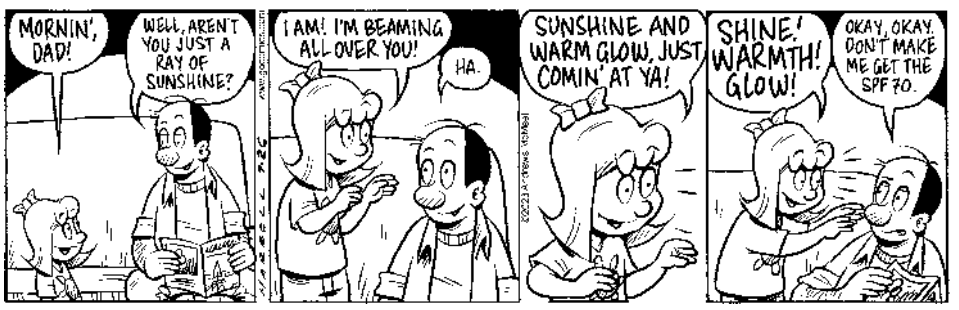


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MORNIN', DAD!
WELL, AREN'T YOU JUST A RAY OF SUNSHINE?
I AM! I'M BEAMING ALL OVER YOU!
HA.
SUNSHINE AND WARM GLOW, JUST COMIN' AT YA!
SHINE! WARMTH! GLOW!
OKAY, OKAY. DON'T MAKE ME GET THE SPF 70.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

GOSH, ELVIN, I HAVEN'T HAD A DATE IN QUITE A WHILE.
DON'T FEEL BAD. YOU'RE JUST IN A DRY SPELL.
HEY, THAT'S A GOOD WAY OF LOOKING AT IT.
YEAH, JUST LIKE DEATH VALLEY AND THE SAHARA DESERT

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

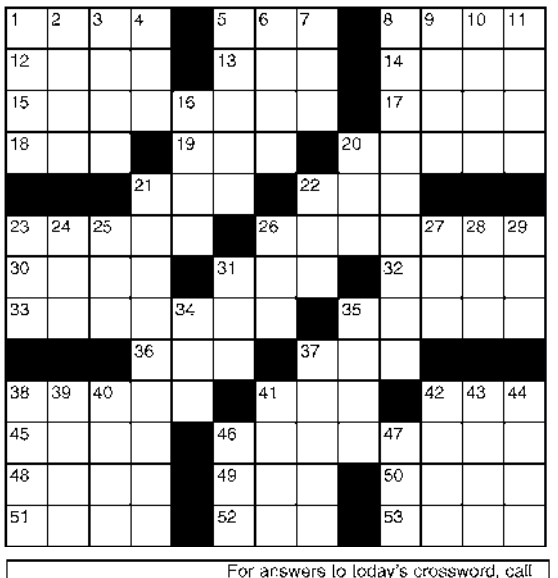
ACROSS
1 Missing
5 Mountain pass
8 Roasting rod
12 401(k) relatives
13 Boom times
14 Actress Hatcher
15 Eke out a living
17 "East of Eden" son
18 Small battery
19 Twisty turn
20 Bitten by a bee
21 "Mayday!"
22 Expected
23 Former U.N. leader Kofi
26 Drum kit parts
30 Old radio knob
31 Golf peg
32 "Yeah, right"
33 Toronto's province
35 Fishing net
36 Quick swim
37 Prof's degree
38 Lively ballroom dance
41 "Caught ya!"
42 CEO's deg.
45 Crunchy cookie
46 Pitcher's change-up
48 Shredded picnic dish
49 Sweetie
50 Russian river
51 Bridge fee
52 "— -haw!" (cowboy cry)
53 Apprehends

DOWN
1 WNBA star Leslie
2 Sea predator
3 Poet Teasdale
4 Airport org.
5 Stab
6 LAPD alerts
7 "Gangnam Style" singer
8 Nene, to Hawaii
9 Andean land
10 Pressing thing?
11 Crystal-tapping sound
16 Drudge
20 Bottom line
21 Waldorf-serving container
22 Coloring agent
23 Fuss
24 Diarist Anaïs
25 — King Cole
26 Biz bigwig
27 Lawyers' gp.
28 "Ben-Hur" author Wallace
29 Cardinal cap letters
31 Gratuity
34 2016 Olympics city
35 Spring meltdown
37 Give a ring
38 Lion's share
39 Folk singer Guthrie
40 Repast
41 Lotion ingredient
42 Kate of "House of Cards"
43 Spill the beans
44 "— fair in ..."
46 Bashful
47 Chignon

Solution time: 22 mins.

F	M	J			P	C	S		C	R	A	B
M	I	N	G		K	A	T		H	O	D	A
M	E	I	R		C	R	R		I	T	E	M
A	N	V	I	L		T	A	L	C			
			Z	E	D		W	E	A	S	E	L
B	A	Z	Z	I	N	G		A	G	I	L	E
O	P	E	L		A	A	H		O	S	I	S
M	F	R	Y	I		I	C	B	R	I	F	S
P	R	O	B	E	S		T	E	E			
			E	D	A	M		S	A	U	D	Y
J	A	V	A		L		E		R	H	E	A
E	M	I	R		E	L	F		S	U	N	K
I	A	P	S		M	A	I			H	I	S

Yesterday's answer 9-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Manny Montana, 40; Christina Milian, 42; Serena Williams, 42; Jim Caviezel, 55.

Happy Birthday: Don't hesitate; get the ball rolling and finish what you start. Keep life simple and doable. Refuse to be led by those pushing lies. It's up to you to think for yourself and make decisions you can live with moving forward. Put your energy where it counts. Personal growth will be gratifying and point you in a positive direction. Your numbers are 6, 19, 22, 25, 34, 39, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pay attention and act fast. Monitor what's happening and refuse to let situations get blown out of proportion. It's up to you to change what isn't working for you and to gravitate toward what soothes your soul. Take a deep breath and do what's necessary. 4 stars

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't skirt issues. Be honest with yourself and others, do what's best for you and have no regrets. Discipline will pay off, and intelligence will help you choose where you want to go. Seize the moment and promote yourself. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* If you aren't cognizant of what's happening, someone will blindside you. Keep an open mind but a closed wallet. Protect your emotions and your reputation from those trying to outdo you. Network, stay current and honor your promises. Actions speak louder than words. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put your energy into whatever offers the highest returns. Getting upset won't solve anything, but discussing matters in depth will help you put things in perspective and find common ground. An opportunity will come with change; don't miss out for fear of trying something new. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Speed up and make things happen. Be the one to make a difference and lift the morale of those around you. A couple of changes at home will be conducive to new beginnings and better relationships with those you love. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be the one to open doors instead of waiting for others to go first. A change will influence how you think and what you can accomplish. Put some muscle behind your thoughts, and you'll change the dynamics of your relationships and direction. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be aware and monitor what's happening. Don't take sides; staying neutral will allow you to see both sides and conduct what's necessary to keep the peace. Be the mentor, not the one who stirs the pot. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't let a change of plans disrupt your day. Use your resources to reconstruct a path that works for you and keep moving forward. Refuse to let emotional issues affect your work or your reputation. Maintaining composure will lead to an unusual opportunity. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Concentrate on what brings you joy. Travel, educational pursuits and time spent with supportive people will keep you grounded. Activities that require physical action will boost your morale and initiate more time spent doing things conducive to health and fitness. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Redefine what's important to you and adjust your schedule to suit your needs. A change of attitude will help deter anyone from putting pressure on you to do things that don't interest you. Make your position clear and be vocal about your plans. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay attention to where your money goes. Manage paperwork to ensure you get what you want and be sure to take advantage of a good deal. Refuse to follow someone tempting you with pie-in-the-sky ideas. Choose common sense over being polite. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Drift in a direction that offers more freedom to do what brings you joy. Consider matters thoroughly and contact those you trust, and an opportunity to put positive changes in place will come your way. Be reasonable, but protect your interests. Curb expensive habits. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, creative and dramatic. You are kind and friendly.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8			6	7	5		
		9	5	2		1		7
	3	7						2
7	9		8	3				
3				5	2	9	7	
8	2		7	9	1			3
9		3	2	7				1
	5	2	9	8				
4			6		5			

Difficulty: ★★ 9/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	9	8	1	6	7	2	4	5
2	5	1	4	9	3	6	8	7
6	4	7	8	2	5	9	1	3
7	3	9	2	4	6	8	5	1
1	8	2	7	5	9	4	3	6
5	6	4	3	8	1	7	9	2
9	7	3	6	1	4	5	2	8
8	1	5	9	7	2	3	6	4
4	2	6	5	3	8	1	7	9

Difficulty: ★ 9/25 ©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THINGS THAT ARE VERDIGRIS Solution: 5 letters

U	S	N	E	C	K	L	A	C	E	Z	A	L	G	E
N	T	L	S	W	E	R	C	S	C	C	O	I	N	S
P	I	E	A	Z	Y	P	T	H	G	I	L	O	S	I
L	F	A	N	T	S	E	E	C	T	N	I	A	P	O
U	U	O	T	S	E	M	U	S	O	T	E	T	O	U
M	R	M	U	N	I	M	U	L	A	P	I	E	O	Q
B	N	B	N	C	U	L	N	T	B	V	P	L	N	R
I	I	O	A	T	M	O	S	P	H	E	R	E	E	U
N	T	L	S	P	I	U	F	N	I	A	H	C	R	T
G	U	T	I	T	R	L	O	A	N	I	T	A	P	N
S	R	P	C	C	A	T	O	T	H	G	I	R	B	N
S	E	A	N	Y	O	T	R	Y	L	L	E	B	O	E
A	E	E	E	O	S	C	U	L	P	T	U	R	E	E
R	Y	R	L	E	W	E	J	E	A	G	I	N	G	R
B	H	S	I	N	R	A	T	E	X	T	U	R	E	G

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Aging, Aluminum, Atmosphere, Bell, Blue, Bolt, Bracelet, Brass, Bright, Bronze, Chain, Chemical, Coins, Copper, Encrustation, Fountain, Furniture, Glaze, Green, Iron, Jewelry, Keys, Layer, Light, Metals, Necklace, Paint, Patina, Pipe, Plumbing, Reaction, Roof, Screws, Sculpture, Spoon, Statue, Tarnish, Texture, Tile, Tools, Turquoise, Utensils, Vase

Yesterday's Answer: Charmers

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 73, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Tagovailoa, Dolphins score most points since 1966 in 70-20 win over Broncos

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—The Miami Dolphins scored the most points in a game by an NFL team since 1966, overwhelming the Denver Broncos 70-20 on Sunday behind rookie De'Von Achane's 203 yards rushing and Tua Tagovailoa's four touchdown passes, including a no-look shovel-pass.

The Dolphins set a franchise record for scoring and finished two points shy of the NFL's regular-season record—set in 1966 by Washington against the Giants. They are the fourth team in NFL history to score at least 70 points in a regular-season or playoff game.

Miami scored touchdowns on eight of nine drives before Mike White replaced Tagovailoa in the fourth quarter. Raheem Mostert had his second straight multiple-touchdown game with three rushing TDs and a TD catch.

Achane caught a 10-yard TD pass from Tagovailoa in the fourth, and Jason Sanders converted the extra point that made it 56-13 and broke Miami's franchise scoring record of 55 set against St. Louis on Nov. 24, 1977.

Tyreek Hill caught a 54-yard touchdown pass on Miami's opening drive. He finished with 157 yards on nine catches.

Russell Wilson started a season 0-3 for the first time in his career as Denver simply could not keep pace. Wilson was 23 of 38 for 306 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

AP

Miami Dolphins running back Raheem Mostert (31) is congratulated by wide receiver Braxton Berrios (0) and defensive tackle Christian Wilkins (94) after scoring a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos, Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

PACKERS 18, SAINTS 17

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Jordan Love rallied Green Bay from a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit in his first career home start, a comeback that began after New Orleans lost quarterback Derek Carr to a shoulder injury.

The Packers (2-1) scored 18 points in the final 11 minutes to win their 11th consecutive home opener, the NFL's longest active streak. They took the lead on Love's 8-yard pass to Romeo Doubs in the right corner of the end zone with 2:56 left.

Carr's backup, Jameis Winston, drove the Saints (2-1) into scoring position, but rookie Blake Grupe's 46-yard field-goal attempt with just over a minute left sailed wide right.

New Orleans led 17-0 when Carr left in the third quarter after one of Rashan Gary's career-high three sacks.

CHIEFS 41, BEARS 10

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes threw for 272 yards and three touchdowns, Travis Kelce hauled in one of them to the delight of Taylor Swift, and Kansas City beat Chicago.

Jerick McKinnon had a pair of touchdown catches and Isiah Pacheco and Clyde Edwards-Helaire added touchdown runs, helping the Super Bowl champion Chiefs (2-1) deal the Bears (0-3) their 13th consecutive loss dating to last season.

Kelce finished with seven catches for 69 yards and the 3-yard score, which made it 41-0 early in the second half. The All-Pro tight end celebrated by revving the engine of an imaginary motorcycle while his guest, Swift, joyfully pounded the glass of her Arrowhead Stadium suite.

Embattled Bears quarterback Justin Fields was 11 of 22 for 99 yards with an interception and a meaningless touchdown in the final minutes. He also led the Bears with 47 yards rushing, a good chunk of that coming on a 17-yard scramble, as the league's 27th-ranked offense finished with just 203 yards.

COLTS 22, RAVENS 19, OT

BALTIMORE (AP)—Matt Gay capped a terrific day of kicking with a 53-yard field goal in overtime and Indianapolis beat Baltimore.

Gay made a record four kicks from beyond 50 yards, including a 53-yarder that tied it in the final minute of regulation. His chance in overtime didn't come until after both teams had been stopped on fourth down near midfield.

On the Ravens' previous OT possession, they went for it on fourth-and-3 from the Indy 47. Lamar Jackson threw incomplete as Baltimore (2-1) called in vain for a penalty on linebacker E.J. Speed, who appeared to impede receiver Zay Flowers going over the middle.

There was no flag, and the Colts (2-1) were able to drive in position for Gay's fifth field goal of the game.

CHARGERS 28, VIKINGS 24

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Justin Herbert passed for 405 yards and three touchdowns, and Los Angeles kept Kirk Cousins and Minnesota out of the end zone twice in the last three minutes.

Kenneth Murray Jr. made the game-sealing interception in the end zone with 7 seconds left, snagging a ball that deflected off the chest of diving tight end T.J. Hockenson. On Minnesota's previous possession, Michael Davis knocked down Cousins' fourth-down throw to Justin Jefferson at the goal line.

The Vikings (0-3) gave themselves that final chance by stopping the Chargers (1-2) on fourth-and-1 from the LA 24 inside the 2-minute warning.

Keenan Allen not only set career highs with 205 yards and 18 catches, but the 11th-year standout threw a 49-yard touchdown pass to Mike Williams on a trick play that gave the Chargers a 21-10 lead midway through the third quarter.

CARDINALS 28, COWBOYS 16

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Joshua Dobbs threw for a touchdown, James Conner and Rondale Moore ran for scores and Arizona stunned mistake-prone Dallas.

The Cardinals (1-2) never trailed and went ahead 21-10 on the final play of the first half when Matt Prater made a 62-yard field goal. Arizona scored on all five of its possessions before the break.

Jonathan Gannon got his first win as Arizona's coach as the franchise snapped a six-game home skid that lasted nearly a year.

Dobbs completed 17 of 21 passes for 189 yards and a touchdown. Conner ran for 98 yards.

STEELERS 23, RAIDERS 18

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Kenny Pickett passed for 235 yards and two touchdowns in an encouraging performance for Pittsburgh, which held off Las Vegas.

In the first meeting between the franchises in Las Vegas, the Steelers earned their first road win against the Raiders since 1995.

Las Vegas trailed 23-7 going into the fourth quarter. It had a chance to tie the game in the final minutes, but coach Josh McDaniels settled for a short field goal instead of trying to convert a fourth-and-4 at the 8.

Pittsburgh (2-1) struggled offensively in its first two games, but it looked much better against Las Vegas (1-2). Pickett completed 16 of 28 passes, and George Pickens finished with four receptions for 75 yards.

BROWNS 27, TITANS 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—Myles Garrett sacked Ryan Tannehill 3 1/2 times and fronted a Cleveland defense that limited Tennessee to 94 yards.

Six days after the Browns (2-1) lost star running back Nick Chubb to a season-ending knee injury in Pittsburgh, Garrett and Cleveland's defense stepped up with a dominant performance that overwhelmed the Titans (1-2).

The Browns' offense was solid, too, with Deshaun Watson having his best day since signing with Cleveland. He completed 27 of 33 passes for 289 yards and two touchdowns, and his 43-yarder to Amari Cooper put the Browns up 27-3 in the fourth quarter.

Jerome Ford, who moved into Chubb's starting spot, had two touchdowns — a 19-yard reception from Watson and a 3-yard run.

TEXANS 37, JAGUARS 17

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Fullback Andrew Beck muffed a kickoff, picked up the ball and then broke five tackles during an 85-yard return for a touchdown—one of several special teams gaffes by Jacksonville—and Houston gave coach DeMeco Ryans his first victory.

Rookie C.J. Stroud threw for 280 yards and two touchdowns, including a 68-yarder to Tank Dell that sealed it, and the Texans won their fifth in a row at Jacksonville.

Houston (1-2) has won 16 of the past 19, including 10 of 11, in the series.

The Jaguars (1-2) were flat from the start. Their first five drives ended in a missed field goal, a punt, a blocked field goal, a punt and a fumble.

SEAHAWKS 37, PANTHERS 27

SEATTLE (AP)—Kenneth Walker III rushed for 97 yards and two second-half touchdowns, Jason Myers kicked five field goals, and Seattle beat Carolina.

Walker's 36-yard reception midway through the third quarter set up his 1-yard touchdown run after Seattle had settled for field goals every other time it reached Carolina's side of the field.

Walker later restored a two-score lead for Seattle (2-1) when he sprinted untouched on a 7-yard touchdown run with 11:40 remaining.

Myers connected on field goals of 43, 35, 33, 37 and 39 yards.

BILLS 37, COMMANDERS 3

LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Josh Allen threw for a touchdown and ran for another, and Buffalo's defense forced five turnovers by overmatched Washington.

The Bills (2-1) won their second in a row after a rough season opener and handed the Commanders (2-1) their first loss.

Allen was 20 of 32 for 218 yards, including a 35-yard TD pass to Gabe Davis. He added a 10-yard scamper into the end zone among his 46 yards rushing. His interception in the third quarter on third-and-20 functioned more like a long punt than his four backbreaking giveaways that contributed to Buffalo's Week 1 loss at the Jets.

PATRIOTS 15, JETS 10

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Mac Jones threw a touchdown pass, Matt Judon had a late safety and New England extended its winning streak over New York to 15 games.

Bill Belichick's bunch avoided its first 0-3 start since the coach's first season in New England in 2000 while continuing the team's mastery over its AFC East rival.

Zach Wilson made his second start in place of the injured Aaron Rodgers, but was unable to produce much on a rainy day other than one solid drive in the fourth quarter that got the Jets (1-2) back into the game.

LIONS 20, FALCONS 6

DETROIT (AP)—Jared Goff threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to tight end Sam LaPorta early in the second quarter and Detroit beat Atlanta.

The Lions (2-1) earned a much-needed win after following a hype-fueling victory at Kansas City with a deflating loss at home to Seattle.

The Falcons (2-1) failed to protect Desmond Ridder, who was sacked seven times by a team that had only one sack in two games.

Goff was 22 of 33 for 243 yards with a touchdown and an interception. He also had a 3-yard run for a score that gave Detroit a 20-3 lead early in the fourth.

LaPorta, the No. 34 pick overall out of Iowa, scored his first touchdown. He had eight receptions for 84 yards. He has 18 catches, the most by an NFL tight end through three games.

Amon-Ra St. Brown had nine receptions for 102 yards and rookie running back Jahmyr Gibbs ran 17 times for 80 yards.

Yankees eliminated from playoff contention with 7-1 loss to Diamondbacks

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Yankees missed the playoffs for the first time since 2016, getting mathematically eliminated with a rainy 7-1 loss Sunday to the Arizona Diamondbacks as Zac Gallen got his 17th win.

Arizona won for the sixth time in seven games and remained in position for the NL's second wild card, a half-game ahead of the Chicago Cubs. The Diamondbacks also clinched their first winning season since 2019.

On a windy, raining afternoon when fly balls became unpredictable, Gallen (17-8) allowed three hits in six innings, struck out eight and walked two. He won for the third time in four starts and had his eighth scoreless outing this season.

Tommy Pham and Christian Walker produced sacrifice flies on consecutive pitches in the first inning off Carlos Rodón (3-7). Rodón allowed five runs—three earned—and five hits in 6 1/3 innings.

AP

Arizona Diamondbacks shortstop Jordan Lawlar (10) and centerfielder Alek Thomas celebrate after defeating the New York Yankees during a baseball game, Sept. 24, 2023, in New York.

NATIONALS 3, BRAVES 2, GAME 1
BRAVES 8, NATIONALS 5, GAME 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Spencer Strider earned his major league-leading 19th win and Atlanta got its 100th victory of the season, splitting a doubleheader with Washington.

In the opener, rookie Jackson Rutledge earned his first major league victory.

Strider (19-5) pitched 5 2/3 innings and yielded four runs on seven hits, including Luis García's solo shot in the sixth. The right-hander struck out four to give him 274 for the year, two shy of John Smoltz's 1996 single-season modern franchise record.

Nationals starter Joan Adon (2-4) gave up four runs and struck out five in 4 2/3 innings.

In the first game, Rutledge (1-1) allowed three hits and struck out four over five innings in his third career start. Kyle Finnegan allowed a homer in the ninth, but earned his 27th save.

ORIOLES 5, GUARDIANS 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyle Gibson pitched seven strong innings, Adley Rutschman reached base four times and Baltimore moved closer to clinching the AL East title.

Baltimore has a 2 1/2-game lead over second-place Tampa Bay in the division and reduced its magic number to three. Baltimore has six games remaining and holds the tiebreaker over the Rays.

Gibson (15-9) allowed one run and five hits while striking out four. The right-hander was pulled after a leadoff double in the eighth.

The Guardians' Triston McKenzie (0-2), activated from the 60-day injured list before the game, issued a career-high six walks in 1 2/3 innings. He allowed three runs and didn't strike out a batter.

DODGERS 3, GIANTS 2, 10 INNINGS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Taylor's line-drive single to center field in the 10th inning lifted NL West champion Los Angeles past San Francisco.

Amed Rosario began the inning at second base and took third on pinch-hitter Kolten Wong's groundout to short. Taylor singled off Camilo Doval (6-6) to drive in Rosario and give the Dodgers a 6-6 record in extra-inning games this season.

The Giants loaded the bases in the top of the 10th. Pinch-hitter Mitch Haniger was the designated runner at second to start the inning. After J.D. Davis struck out, Joc Pederson was intentionally walked by Shelby Miller (3-0). Thairo Estrada hit a fly ball to center that Kiké Hernández lost in the gathering dusk. It fell to his left to load the bases.

But the Dodgers got out of trouble with an inning-ending double play. Pinch-hitter Patrick Bailey grounded up the middle, with the ball catching Miller's arm before the shortstop tagged second and threw to first.

BLUE JAYS 9, RAYS 5

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—George Springer hit an inside-the-park, three-run homer, made a diving catch and threw out a runner, helping Toronto beat Tampa to take two of three in a series of potential playoff opponents.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered twice, making an impressive bat flip after the second, and Bo Bichette also went deep for the Blue Jays. Toronto extended its lead for the second AL wild card to two games over Houston and 2 1/2 games ahead of Seattle.

Isaac Paredes hit his 30th homer for Tampa Bay, which has clinched at the least the AL's top wild card.

Rays starter Taj Bradley (5-8) retired 10 in a row after Springer's homer. The rookie allowed six runs and seven hits in a career-high seven innings.

MARLINS 6, BREWERS 1

MIAMI (AP)—Jon Berti had his second career multihomer game, and Miami beat Milwaukee, the second straight day they prevented the Brewers from clinching the NL Central.

Josh Bell also went deep, Jorge Soler had three hits and Jazz Chisholm Jr. doubled twice for the Marlins, who remained one game behind the Chicago Cubs for the third NL wild card spot. Milwaukee's division lead over the second-place Cubs was cut to six games.

Marlins starter Edward Cabrera (7-7) allowed one run and five hits in five-plus innings with five strikeouts.

RANGERS 6, MARINERS 8

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Marcus Semien homered twice, Corey Seager had a go-ahead, two-run shot and Texas held on to finish a three-game sweep in a crucial AL West series.

Adolis García, Leody Taveras and rookie Evan Carter also went deep as the Rangers hit a season-high six homers, their most at four-season-old Globe Life Field.

AL West-leading Texas (85-70) won its fifth consecutive game and moved 2 1/2 games ahead of defending World Series champion Houston, which was swept at home by Kansas City. Seattle (84-71) trails Houston by a half-game for the third and final wild card.

PHILLIES 5, METS 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Castellanos hit his 29th homer to move Philadelphia within one win of a National League playoff berth, completing a four-game sweep over New York.

The win was a bright spot in what the Phillies hoped would be a much more joyous day.

Wins earlier in the day by the Chicago Cubs and Miami Marlins meant a potential NL wild-card clinch had to wait at least one more game.

Phillies starter Cristopher Sánchez (3-5) struck out 10 in seven innings. Michael Lorenzen, rocked since he pitched a no-hitter in August, tossed a scoreless ninth for his first save.

ROYALS 6, ASTROS 5

HOUSTON (AP)—Nelson Velázquez hit two home runs and Salvador Perez and Matt Duffy also homered as Kansas City built a big lead early and held on for a win over slumping Houston.

Kansas City has won six straight games and 10 of 11. The Royals raced to a 6-2 lead after tagging rookie Hunter Brown (11-13) for all four homers in just three innings.

Yordan Alvarez hit a solo homer to cut the lead to one run in the fifth. But the defending World Series champions couldn't do anything after that on a day they went 1 for 10 with runners in scoring position and lost for the fifth time in six games.

TWINS 9, ANGELS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Ryan Jeffers homered, tripled and drove in three runs to back a strong outing by Joe Ryan as Minnesota pulled away late to beat Los Angeles.

After a 50-minute rain delay, Jeffers and Max Kepler each hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning to help the Twins expand a one-run lead.

Los Angeles reliever Carson Fulmer (0-1), making his first major league appearance since 2021, allowed three runs over four innings to take the loss.

Ryan (11-10) tied Pablo López for the team lead in wins. He pitched six innings, giving up three runs on seven hits with no walks and 10 strikeouts — one shy of his career high. It was the sixth time Ryan struck out 10 batters this seasons.

CUBS 4, ROCKIES 3

CHICAGO (AP)—Patrick Wisdom put Chicago ahead with a two-run homer in the sixth inning, Seiya Suzuki had two hits and scored twice, and the Cubs helped their playoff chances by beating Colorado.

Yan Gomes also drove in two runs for the Cubs, who remained a game in front of Miami for the National League's final postseason berth. Chicago is a half-game behind Arizona for the second of three wild cards.

Jordan Wicks (4-1) allowed three runs over six innings for Chicago in its final home game of the regular season. The Cubs have won three straight after dropping seven of eight.

Brendan Rodgers and Nolan Jones homered for the Rockies in their franchise-record 99th loss.

REDS 4, PIRATES 2

CINCINNATI (AP)—TJ Friedl hit a two-run homer and drove in the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning as Cincinnati bounced back from a historic collapse the night before to beat Pittsburgh.

Joey Votto received ovations from the crowd all day and singled in what could be his final home at-bat for the Reds.

Christian Encarnacion-Strand added a solo homer for Cincinnati, which stayed 2 1/2 games behind the Chicago Cubs for the final National League wild card. The Reds have five games remaining, all on the road.

Jose Hernandez (1-2) took the loss. Lucas Sims (7-3) earned the win for Cincinnati. Ian Gibaut earned his second save.

PADRES 12, CARDINALS 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Juan Soto hit a 461-foot homer and had four RBIs for San Diego, which was pushed closer to elimination from the playoff picture even as it beat St. Louis in its home finale.

Right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. made a spectacular leaping catch to rob pinch-hitter Michael Siani of a home run in the sixth. Tatis did a little dance and acknowledged the crowd's ovation.

Jose Azocar also homered for the Padres, who had nine extra-base hits in winning for the ninth time in 10 games. Their best stretch of the season is likely coming too late as they moved closer to elimination from the wild-card race after the Chicago Cubs and Arizona Diamondbacks both won.

Soto hit a three-run homer off lefty Drew Rom (1-4) in the first inning, his 33rd. Rom allowed eight runs, six earned, and 11 hits in 3 1/3 innings.

WHITE SOX 3, RED SOX 2

BOSTON (AP)—Mike Clevinger pitched six solid innings, Elvis Andrus had a two-run double and Chicago beat Boston in a rain-shortened game, ending a string of 12 straight series losses.

Adam Duvall and Wilyer Abreu each hit a solo homer for the Red Sox, who are on pace to finish in the AL East basement for the third time in four years.

The umpires called for the tarp after the sixth and it was called after a 1 hour, 43-minute delay.

Clevinger (9-8) gave up two runs and five hits without striking out or walking a batter.

TIGERS 2, ATHLETICS 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Eduardo Rodriguez threw seven scoreless innings and Detroit beat the last-placed Oakland in its last home game.

Spencer Torkelson had two hits and drove in the only runs in the game with a two-run single in the third.

The A's (48-108) lost for the ninth time in 11 games and tied the Oakland-era record for most losses in a season, initially set in 1979. The A's also tied the franchise mark of 55 home losses.

Rodriguez (12-9) left his previous outing last Monday due to back spasms. He was mostly sharp in his return despite four walks. He allowed five hits and did not allow a run while pitching seven innings or more for the sixth time this season.

Jason Foley retired two batters and Alex Lange got the final four outs for his 25th save.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Lady Eagles drown Lady Dolphins in girls v-ball

The Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles and Marianas High School Lady Dolphins' NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 two-set game rocked the MHS Gymnasium last Thursday.

In a game of school pride and volleyball supremacy, it seemed more like a playoff game than anything else—with both teams keeping each other close as they took turns scoring—keeping in tune with the cheers from the crowd.

It wasn't easy to spot who had the upper hand a few minutes into the first set, but later, the Lady Eagles' attacks from sky-high by way of Azzy Fatialofa, submerged the Lady Dolphins by a few points.

The Lady Dolphins, after a well-timed time out regrouped and made more accurate returns, but couldn't keep their head above water long enough and lost the first set, 21-18.

Both teams geared up for a second fight-to-the-finish set—and with displays of almost impossible saves, precise kills, and ace serves—the gym was almost brought down by the riot-sounding screams of both teams' supporters after each point.

MHS' rotation of Rizza Relucio, Julie Ann Capayas, Deivalyn Ham, Direnalyn Castro, Myah Omelau, Airianna Estrada, Elaina Manglona, Sheira Dela Rosa, Cassie Regan, Ayanna Stole, and Tamia Hix, they gave GCA a run for their money as they took turns with the lead.

LEIGH GASES

Grace Christian Academy's Misako Ota lets a service fly during their game against Marianas High School in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 at the MHS Gymnasium last Thursday.

LEIGH GASES

Grace Christian Academy's Alyssa Omampo, right, spikes over the net as two Marianas High School defenders attempt to block during their game in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 at the MHS Gymnasium last Thursday.

Meanwhile, GCA's rotation which included Fatialofa, Dianna Zheng, and Alyssa Omampo, Eunji Hahn, Taehee Kim, Eunice Pagaduan, Bea Fabre, Misako Ota, Ana Teng, Sofia Gomez, Matty Angeles, Maria Zheng, and Jenny Zheng, fought tooth and nail to cling onto their currently 1-0 record.

After multiple back-and-forth sway of the lead, then ties, then switching of favors, the Lady Eagles held on to win in extras, 22-20.

In other results that night, Saipan International School won in three tough sets against MHS III, 17-21, 21-7, 15-9; Kagman High School trounced Mount Carmel School, 21-13, 21-19; MHS II defeated Agape Christian School II, 21-10, 21-11; ACS won over Saipan Southern High School, 21-10, 21-18; and MCS defeated KHS, 22-20, 21-16.

DR. RON

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started, I was only planning on 30 days. And then when I did 30 days, I had extended it to 60 days, then to 200 days—-then I said I'm gonna do a year. But yeah, I never thought about 1,000 days when I first started. So, I'm very proud and happy that Edward [Dela Cruz Jr.] introduced me to it."

The 57-year-old Saipan International School headmaster said that next up for him is the 'Forrest Gump run' of about three years, two months, 14 days and 16 hours—saying he will run as much as Forrest Gump did in the movie.

But even when he reaches that, Snyder said he will just keep on running and has no plans on stopping. The next milestone he wants to reach after the Forrest Gump run, is the Proficient level, five-year mark of the running streak world.

Snyder was also very grateful for the handful that joined him on his 1,000th day run and for those who donated to the cause. "I'm really, really grateful, not only to the ones who donated money, but everyone who showed up for me today and helped me help me celebrate through to the end. So, a long journey, obviously. I'm also grateful to the people who donated. Every little bit helps for the organization and I'm sure that they are going to be very grateful to receive the funds as well."

LEIGH GASES

Dr. Ron Snyder, kneeling with Gilligan, poses with his group of friends and supporters that joined him on his 1,000th straight day of running at the pathway in front of the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill last Sunday afternoon.

He then recalled the tough times he's had with running every day, and said that when he got COVID-19 was the toughest. "Probably the first six months were the hardest because then it hasn't become a habit yet. There were also some days that I wasn't feeling well," he said.

His advice for those who want to start a run streak or are in the middle of one is, "Do it as long as you feel good. If it's really not bringing you joy and actually dragging your body down, that's the time to stop. But it does change your life," he said. "I'm not an elite runner by any means, but it has impacted my health in a positive way and my outlook on life too. So, my advice would be to try it and keep with it over those first difficult times, and then it just becomes a part of your life and a part of maintaining your health."

Dela Cruz, who was part of Dr. Ron's 1,000th day running crew, said he is proud of him for reaching that milestone. He said that he thought he wouldn't even make that far and thought he would actually end it after just 30 days.

OFFICE

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and other government agencies including the Department of Public Safety, Marianas Visitors Authority, among others.

As they took on Priority Care—a team with great chemistry who also currently plays in another league, they squared up really quickly and kept pace with them—taking turns at the basket.

The first quarter was a fiery battle as both teams were equal in firepower and defensive prowess.

It was neck and neck throughout, with Office of the Governor's Juan Camacho risking it all with tough fouls from his aggressiveness within the paint. He led the team with 7 points in a whirlwind first quarter—just as Priority Care's Steve King kept them close with 8 points. When the dust settled, Office of the Governor led by just 3 points, 23-20.

Office of the Governor took their momentum into the rest of the game—building and finding their chemistry that rivaled that of Priority Care's. As Office of the Governor's offense and defense were strengthening, Priority Care was overpowered and fell apart—but only slightly as the lead was never greater than 10 points.

Camacho continued to dominate and draw fouls from Priority Care in a physically challenging matchup within the paint—complemented by Leo Galarse and Vince Igitol's precision from the perimeter.

Priority Care tried to hold their own with help from sharp shooter King—passing to him when he's open, but even with a game-high 36 points, it wasn't enough to close the gap Office of the Governor fought for.

Matthew Duenas also tried to keep Priority Care afloat with his 14 markers, but to no avail.

By the end, Camacho had a team-high 20 points, while Galarse put up 14 markers, and Igitol had 12 of his own.

In the second game of the night, MarPac won their second game after they defeated the Federals, 90-74.

Last Saturday, Priority Care bounced back from their loss and won over PSS, 81-78; Joeten won their second game after they defeated CUC, 89-60; and CPA won their first game with a win against CHCC, 70-62.

Office of the Governor 85 – J. Camacho 20, Galarse 14, Igitol 12, Kwon 9, P. Camacho 7, Taisague 6, Diaz 6, K. Pangelinan 4, T. Pangelinan 4, Quitano 2, Basa 1.

Priority Care 71 – King 26, Duenas 15, Pelisamen 4, Rabauliman 4, Agulto 4, Omar 3, Manglona 2, Tilipao 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-20, 43-34, 68-59, 85-71.

THREE

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pickleball facility—world class—so we're making our way toward that. This is just another step in our journey. We went from the parking lot, to the church, to Capitol Hill, then AMP. Now we're here, so we're on the move."

Bea O'Malley, Hyatt Marketing and Communications manager, said that they are "very excited that pickleball games are here… this idea was to continue our engagement with the community. We are in the forefront of having activities for the community to enjoy, and pickleball is picking up in the states and here, so we want to be on that platform to expose the sport."

She added, "I hope this exposure will help the sport to progress and more people will try and come check it out." Since the courts are near the beach side, O'Malley shared that during the tournament, there were people barbequing who actually lowered their music, stopped what they were doing, and watched the games.

PFNMI marked its third year anniversary last June. For those who don't know what pickleball is, it is a cross between tennis, ping-pong, and badminton.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right, Guam's Dereck Alcorn, PFNMI's Marivic Dunlop, and Eric Abragan were the last three standing after the first Hangman Pickleball Tournament at the new pickleball courts at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Saturday.

Tagovailoa, Dolphins score most points since 1966 in 70-20 win over Broncos.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lady Eagles drown Lady Dolphins in girls v-ball.

PAGE 19

Dr. Ron celebrates 'Comma' with a good cause

LEIGH GASES

Dr. Ron Snyder celebrates at the finish line his 1,000th day mile run at the pathway in front of the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill last Sunday afternoon.

By LEIGH GASES
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One of the pillars of Saipan's running community, Dr. Ron Snyder, marked his 1,000th straight day of running at least a mile a day last Sunday, Sept. 24.

His "Comma" day also coincided with his sister Jeanie Dickinson's 54th birthday and celebrated both with a mile run that began in front of the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill.

On top of that, Snyder ran for a great cause as he, along with supporters, donated to benefit Prader-Willi Syndrome Alliance of New York, Inc. in honor of his niece, Jessika Dickinson.

Snyder, who ran with man's best friend Gilligan, said how he felt after his 1,000th day run, "Really good. I mean, when I

See DR. RON on Page 19

Three survive first 'Hangman' pickleball tourney

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Only three players came out unscathed after the first Hangman Pickleball Tournament played at the new courts at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Over 30 players from the Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands, or PFNMI, debuted at their new home court last Saturday, with Marivic Dunlop, Eric Abragan, and Guam's Dereck Alcorn the only three players who did not lose a limb in the tournament.

Donna Krum, PFNMI board member, explained that the rules are on the eight courts, there are four players each. A pair plays against another for 20 minutes and after, they drop an already predetermined number in either the winner's or loser's bucket. They get drawn again in round two and go for four rounds.

When a player loses, they lose a limb, just like in the children's game hangman. They play four rounds and when they have not lost any limbs by the end, they win the tournament.

PFNMI, although it already debuted at the courts in Hyatt, will still play at the American Memorial Park courts until the official grand opening of the courts in mid-October, after which they will fully move there. It will coincide with the reopening of Hyatt's Splash Bar. As for the AMP courts, Krum said it is open to the public and anyone is free to play there.

Krum said that they're grateful for the partnership with Hyatt. When PFNMI relocates fully to the Hyatt courts, the hotel's in-house guests are able to join them to play and learn the sport.

"This is our new home. We did this all ourselves. We painted the courts, power-washed the courts, and so this was our contribution as well as providing all the equipment," said Krum. "When the guests are out here, they can play with us also, so this is kind of our community outreach because the PFNMI is an official nonprofit group."

As for their federation, she said "It's great, growing, and very solid. It keeps growing. As you can see, there are eight courts instead of four at the AMP, and it'll be full every night. Our goal has always been to have a dedicated

See THREE on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

Marivic Dunlop, right, fires a return as partner Eric Abragan waits during their first-round match up of the Hangman Pickleball Tournament at the new pickleball courts at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Saturday.

Office of the Governor wins 1st game in inter gov't/biz league

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Team Office of the Governor muscled their way past Priority Care, 85-72, for their first win in the Inaugural R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2023 last Thursday afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

From the opening jump ball, it was clear it was going to be a rough and tumble game. Team Office of the Governor are made up of players from the governor's office

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LEIGH GASES

Office of the Governor's Athan Taisague, right is fouled by Priority Care's Steven King during a layup attempt during their game in the Inaugural R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2023 Thursday afternoon at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.